Christian Courier

A REFORMED WEEKLY

APRIL 19, 1996/No. 2483

REDEEMER COLLEGE LIBRARY
CHRISTIAN COURIER APR 22 1996
PER/BX/9401/.C36

V-chip inventor motivated by Christian values

COURTESY JANE OUWEHAND

Tim Collings, an engineering professor at Simon Fraser University, holds up a V-chip — his invention.

Jane Ouwehand

"It was the Montreal massacre of the 14 women and a few other incidents in history around the same time that made me say, 'Something has got to be done here'" says Tim Collings, inventor of the V-chip.

Whether TV violence actually causes violence in society has not been proven conclusively, but after making a study of the matter, Collings believes that in some crimes, TV is a "main contributing factor."

The debate rages between those who want to eliminate all violence from TV and those who want to maintain "freedom of expression."

Collings, a professor of engineering at Simon Fraser University, has not tried to get movie producers to change their product. But he has invented the V-chip which blanks out any program which has too much violence, sex or bad language. Movies and shows are rated on a scale of 1 to 5. Viewers can choose their own levels. They can decide to choose low levels if they have young children, or they can decide to tolerate bad language but not violence. (News and sports shows, however, have not been rated so far.)

"Parents want to bring up their children in a responsible manner," says Collings, "but they're powerless unless they're right there in the room. They're not always there to monitor it." The V-chip and the ratings are tools to help parents. Collings, "but they're powerless unless they're right there in the room. They're not always there to monitor it." The V-chip and the ratings are tools to help parents. Collings notes that even when parents watch TV with their children, sometimes they find themselves watching something that offends them because there is no advance warning of what the show contains.

Rating system the key

The rating system is the key to the success of this invention. Collings admits that it can only work if producers and parents can agree on standards, and if ratings will be consistent from one network to another. After working through tests with both parties for a number of years he is satisfied that the rating system he is working with is objective enough to give consistent results no matter who is doing the rating.

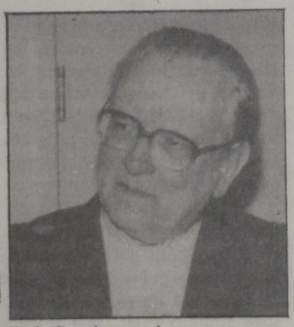
The V-chip has been

See **BROADCASTERS** *p. 2...*

Economist Goudzwaard's message dovetails with Native concerns

Jessie Schut

EDMONTON — "Child Welfare Caseload Soars" was the headline in the *Edmonton Journal* on April 1. It was no April Fool's joke. Statistics showed that 9,200 Alberta children were receiving protection services in March, up almost 3,000 from four years earlier. Almost half of these children are Native, although Natives make up a lot less than 10 per cent of the province's population.



JESSIE SCHUT

Bob Goudzwaard

Alberta government staff gathering information for the report identified poverty, stress, unemployment, and job-loss as the primary factors leading to the increase. Many people feel that those factors have increased since the Klein government's austerity measures were introduced to help cut the budget deficit.

On the same day the story appeared, noted Christian economist Bob Goudzwaard was in town. He met with representatives of at least 19 Christian social justice groups at The King's University College to discuss his latest book, *Beyond Poverty and Affluence: Towards a Canadian Economy of Care.* It was an apt theme for the close to 50 persons gathered, representing groups that are dealing with the drastic social spending cuts.

John Stellingwerff, who directs the Edmonton Native Healing Centre, a ministry of the Council of Christian Reformed Churches in Canada, was one of those present. He isn't a stranger to the statistics. He's seen hungry and hopeless families walk in through the

See **SOCIETY** *page 2...*

In this Issue

Vacation Anticipation

John Hiemstra discovers both good and evil on vacation ..... p. 6

Marian Van Til gives a glimpse into the "other" Florida ..... p. 10

Think Christians are humorless? See ..... p. 20

LIBRARY REDEEMER COLLEGE
777 HWY #53 EAST Dec 96
ANCASTER, ON
L9K 1J4

News

Broadcasters and producers oppose V-chip

...continued from page 1
endorsed by the CRTC, by the European Parliament, and by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Broadcasters and producers are opposed, according to Collings, because they are worried that it will be harder to attract advertising for shows which may be blocked by V-chips. Says Collings, "Everybody's hoping it will do something along the lines of encouraging producers to make better programming available."

When asked if his work is motivated by religious values, Collings declares, "Very much so." He has been a Christian all his life, and states, "In our actions that always comes to the fore. We want to reflect those qualities that please our Lord."

V-chip useful for single parents

Retired English teacher and Christian school principal Frank De Vries is almost sure that the V-chip will be embraced by the Christian community. He feels it would be very useful for single parents who often cannot be present to supervise what their children are watching. "Older siblings watch TV programs which are not appropriate for the younger children. I find that very disconcerting." The V-chip would be a good solution."

Nevertheless, De Vries calls the V-chip a "bandaid approach." He charges producers and broadcasters with showing violence and sex, even if harmful, because "they are after the almighty buck."

"Imagine what would happen if all Christians were to stand up for what they believe and conscientiously write to broadcasters and producers to ask for better programming. But we think small — only about our own friends and families. The V-chip is a bandaid solution, but it is better than nothing."

Artist has mixed feelings

Ron Reed, of the Pacific Theatre in Vancouver, has mixed feelings about the V-chip. "As an artist, I feel it is important to be able to look at violence and sexuality. It is important for artists not to be censored in their divine calling to explore the difficult parts of life."

But as a Christian parent, he would be happy to have options about how these would be handled on television. "In TV I really resent not knowing what's coming. I'd like to choose when and what images will come into my home." Reed hopes that the news will be rated too: when crimes are reported they show "a horrific slice of the world that doesn't need to be in my living room all the time."

Now, thanks to Tim Collings, the technology is there to keep "freedom of expression" and at the same time protect those who need protection, especially the children, and also their parents.

Society needs 'economy of care'

... continued from page 1
doors of the centre looking for food, clothing, and housing.

Goudzwaard's message to the group was that the old ways of dealing with social problems will no longer work. The governments have been dealing with problems by throwing money at them. In the end, that doesn't solve problems but it does increase the deficit, adding to the vicious cycle of poverty and degradation.

Like a tree

Goudzwaard pointed to a living organism, the tree, as a model for society's economic salvation. A tree is meant to bear fruit, and it does so if it is cared for properly.

That care includes allowing the tree to build reserves for itself, rather than using up all its energy just to grow; lopping off the dead material, to encourage the growth of new life; and using all of its cells to promote its various functions. In the same way, society must channel some of its growth into reserves; it must invest in areas where there is potential for new growth, such as the environment and preventive care; and people must all work together to solve the problems. It's an "economy of care," and it shows obedience to the central command of the gospel to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Goudzwaard's message touched Stellingwerff both personally and professionally. "He's had a great impact on my personal life," he said. "With everything I have, and how I've been raised — it's a continuous battle to know when enough is enough. I need to be reminded again about keeping my priorities straight. And as Goudzwaard says, it really has to start in your own heart and in your own home.

"I've been helped a lot in my thinking on this through my ministry with Native people. They know that Mother Earth is rebelling against the exploitation and that we're out of control. The vast majority of Natives know better than we do what the problem is, and they have the solution in their traditional ways. Goudzwaard says nothing new to the Native people. They've been living this message for thousands of years. But the tragedy for them is that many of them have abandoned the traditional way."

JESSIE SCHUT

Bob Goudzwaard speaks to 19 Christian social justice groups at The King's University College.

That's why Stellingwerff doesn't blame all of the Native woes on government cutbacks, although he sees that those cutbacks are having devastating effects on families that are already dysfunctional. "On the one hand, I deplore the fact that the cuts fall on the backs of the disadvantaged. The poor are paying the price. On the other hand, what I do see is a lot more training programs that are sponsored by the government. If you're a single, employable male or female, you're quickly channelled into an educational or life-skills program, and our centre has benefitted from those programs. But if you're the head of a Native family, and you have a major problem with drugs or alcohol, and can't stick it out in a training program, you'll get no benefits and your family will suffer."

Forgetting their roots

These major social problems are affecting Natives because they've abandoned their culture, says Stellingwerff, and it's his job to bring back their own message to them. But Natives are not the only people affected by the culture. Canadian Christians of all races are prone to forgetting their roots in Scripture and buying into materialism and greed.

"We've capitulated, and now we need to back-track. Our Judeo-Christian Calvinistic work ethic has driven us to exploiting the earth. The Natives were never blessed — or cursed — by that work ethic, so when they buy into the materialism, it doesn't work for them."

It's tragic because in the traditional Native thinking, and in Goudzwaard's book, there are answers that Canadians and Christians are ignoring.

"When Bob Goudzwaard says, 'We need to tell the politician that their way is unrealistic,' the Natives agree and say, 'We can show you a way that is realistic. We have a message for the non-Native people; we have a way out. Let us show you how.' I encourage Native people to speak that message — to the church and to Christians also, because we need to learn again what God wants from us."

WESTMINSTER HOUSE, WHITE ROCK, B.C.

Westminster House provides Personal and Intermediate Care for seniors in a Christian, family-oriented setting in 84 single, studio and one-bedroom units. An additional 28 one- and two-bedroom units are planned for 1996 in the Congregate, Personal and Intermediate Care levels. Units are available for rent or purchase. Please call **(604) 538-5291 for rental or pre-sale information or write us at 1653-140th St., Surrey, BC V4A 4H1.**

Westminster House is operated by HRC Care Society, an arm of Hope Reformed Church of Vancouver.

Please take advantage of our monthly Business Directory. For a low cost of $25 (plus 7% GST) you can advertise your business.

Feature

Gas-run camping appliances: *bane and blessing*

OTTAWA (OMCCR) — Many campers will be on the road again by late spring, scouting out likely spots for summer-fun weekends. Experts at Ontario's consumer ministry suggest they start the season safely by making sure portable camping appliances that run on propane, naphtha and kerosene are in good working order and used carefully.

Unsafe use of camping equipment leads to many accidents every year.

Unsafe use of fuel-burning heaters, lamps, barbecues, stoves and refrigerators leads to many accidents every year. Fires inside tents and trailers, or outdoors, can result in death or serious injury for campers.

Carbon-monoxide poisoning from using fuel-burning equipment in an enclosed space is another danger for campers. This peril is an invisible killer that has no warning odor. It doesn't give the careless a second chance.

John Gerdels, acting chief engineer with the ministry's Fuels Safety Branch, says, "We want to remind people that, whether they're using a fancy propane stove built into an RV or a little naphtha heater for back-packing, following some simple safety rules will help keep their holiday happy."

Inspect equipment before use each season

Before using any appliance for the first time this season, inspect it carefully.

No matter how cautious campers have been when putting camping stoves and heaters away for the winter, spider webs, dust and other tiny bits of debris can close burner ports.

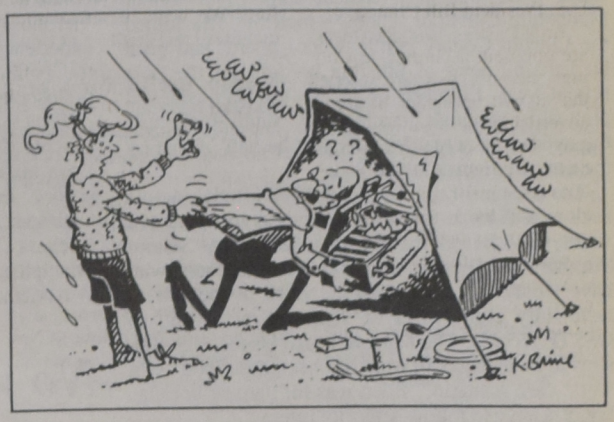
Follow manufacturers' service instructions carefully. That may include replacement of some small parts, such as the generator of a tent heater, but investing a few dollars will prevent aggravation and danger.

If any parts appear worn or corroded, have the unit checked by a qualified serviceperson before use.

Read labels to know your equipment

When buying new equipment, read the manufacturers' labels and suggested use for the appliance.

Only outdoor-venting appliances are appropriate for RVs. In the confined area of a tent, trailer or recreational vehicle, exposure to carbon monoxide can quickly result in disaster. Tent heaters should only be used when fresh air is circulating and should never be left running when campers are asleep.



Always look for the Canadian Gas Association (CGA), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC) symbol to ensure the product has been tested and complies with Canadian standards.

Protect against fire hazards.

Naphtha (also known as white gas or camping fuel), kerosene and propane cookers and barbecues are meant for outdoor use only and should never be brought inside any tent — including a dining tent. Cooking appliances should also be kept well away from combustibles and out of the paths of children and pets.

Be safety-conscious when handling fuel.

"It's important fuel is kept only in approved containers," says Gerdels. "At the campsite, the fuel should be stored out of direct sunlight, and away from motor vehicles or any other possible source of ignition."

The consumer ministry in your province can give you more information on the safe use of propane-, naphtha-, and kerosene-run camping equipment.

YOUR TRAVEL INVITATION

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
1996 CRUISES
on
Holland America Line

We are able to offer you fantastic discounts on the following specials
Some discounts as high as 50% off brochure rates.

To Alaska - 7 days:
May 14 MsNoordam - designated Welcome Again Veterans Cruise. All are welcome.
Aug. 14 MsRyndam - northbound
Aug. 10 MsWesterdam - northbound
Aug. 13 MsNoordam - southbound
To Caribbean - 7 days:
March 6, 9 and 16 - spring break
to Mediterranean - 12 days:
May 10 and Sept. 9

Above cruise dates are special group departures, offered to you at fantastic discounts. Call us for any HAL cruise - we give very special prices on them all.
Any airfares shown do not include airport taxes or insurance.

YOU ARE INVITED TO:
AMSTERDAM

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
Winter Special $589 until March 31

Apr. 1- May 16	$669
May 17-Jun.20	$719
Jun.21-Sept.15	$899
Sept. 16-Oct. 13	$829

Martinair Holland
The other Dutch airline
Spring and Summer Charters/ Special Senior Prices

Apr. 25 $529; May 2-20 $579; May 23-30 $579; June 3-13 $599; June 17-27 $649; July 1-11 $699; July 15-Aug.12 $739; Aug. 15-29 $699; Sept. 2-12 $649; Sept. 16-30 $599; Oct. 3-31 $579

Reg. Adult Fares $20-$60 higher. Call us for complete program details. Star Class $190 o/w.

VERSTRAETE TRAVEL & CRUISES
(located in Aurora and St. Catharines)/Long Distance across Canada 1-800-565-9267
Toronto/area phone (416) 969-8100, plus Anne Winter - Newmarket 836-9226,
Caron Goodreau - Barrie 722-1025; St. Catharines phone (905) 934-4414, plus Henny Vuyk 934-0666

Christian Courier

An independent weekly with a Reformed perspective.
Member of Canadian Church Press and Evangelical Press Association.
Canada mail: Publications Mail Registration No. 0451. Postage paid at St. Catharines, Ont. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Road, St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1
U.S. mail: Christian Courier (USPS 518-090). Second-class postage paid at Lewiston, NY. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, Box 110, Lewiston, NY 14092.

Subscriptions (effective Feb. 1/95):	**Canada** (GST incl.)	**U.S.A.** (GST free)
one year (44 issues)	$43.50	$35.00 U.S.
two years (88 issues)	$82.00	$66.00 U.S.
three years (132 issues)	$123.00	$99.00 U.S.
overseas one year	$135.00 airmail $85.00 surface mail	

Advertising deadlines: display advertising: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.; classified advertising: Thursday, 8:30 a.m. All deadlines are for the following week's issue. See classified pages for more details.
(ISSN 1192-3415) Published weekly on Fridays except for March 1, April 12, May 31, June 21, July 26, Aug. 23, Oct. 4 and Dec. 27, by Calvinist Contact Publishing Limited.
All correspondence should be addressed to: 4-261 Martindale Road, St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1, Tel.: 905-682-8311 or Fax: 905-682-8313
PRINTED IN CANADA
This tabloid contains recycled paper.

Editorials

No one at Eden High foresaw the sudden snag

For a moment it seemed that the Christian character of Eden High School in Niagara on the Lake, Ont., was at a critical stage. The former Mennonite Christian school, which in 1988 joined the Lincoln County public school board, had been hit hard by news of possible lay-offs for the next school year. Eighteen of its 31 teachers received pink slips, although principal Ray Smith thinks that the number of actual lay-offs will be half of that by the time the figures are in.

The reason for this large number of initial lay-off notices at Eden is that its teachers' seniority started when they joined the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation in 1988. Even teachers who have taught for more than 20 years in the school have only eight years of seniority, according to OSSTF records. The Lincoln board issued 205 pink slips to its teachers in what has been described as "a worst case scenario." Eden was hit hardest because lay-offs have to follow seniority rules.

The *St. Catharines Standard* quoted former Eden principal Rudy Bartel as saying that he and other administrators never foresaw this problem. Parents have been phoning the school, expressing their concern about the possible effects of this lay-off. The most worrisome part for them is that Eden may experience a sudden influx of surplus teachers from the public system. Will these teachers share the philosophy of the school?

Principal Smith thinks they will. He has found the Lincoln County board most co-operative in helping Eden maintain its Christian character. Although the school may not ask applicants to give their testimony, it has the right of making sure that teachers are comfortable with the school's principles.

All the same, parents have reason to be concerned. During the eight years that Eden has been part of the public system, it has lost the right to call itself a Christian school, and has seen its Bible courses and chapel moved outside of school hours because of a 1990 court ruling which said that no single religion could be favored in public schools.

The latest developments may not cause as much harm as parents thought at first. But whether the change is drastic or not, the Christian character of Eden is on shaky ground. We believe that the de-Christianization of Eden was a foregone conclusion when it joined a public school system which is not allowed to favor any religion.

You can't go to bed with a promiscuous partner and hope to remain pure. **BW**

Christian Courier

Formerly known as Calvinist Contact
Founded in 1945

An independent weekly that seeks the truth, care and rule of Jesus Christ as it
— reports on significant happenings in the Christian community and the world,
— expresses opinions that are infused by Scripture and Spirit and rooted in a Reformed perspective,
— provides opportunities for contact and discussion for the Christian community.

Editor: Bert Witvoet; **General Manager:** Stan de Jong; **Associate Editor:** Marian Van Til; **Staff Reporter:** Alan Doerksen.

Regional Reporters:
Anne Hutten, Kentville, N.S.; James Kwantes, Vancouver, B.C.; Cindy Bruin, Calgary, Alta.; Gordon Legge, Calgary, Alta.; Jane Ouwehand, Agassiz, B.C.; Jessie Schut, Edmonton, Alta.; Robert VanderVennen, Toronto, Ont.

Circulation Manager: Grace Bowman; **Advertising & Typesetting:** Ingrid Torn; **Layout & Design:** Alan Doerksen; **Proofreading:** Grace Bowman.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD:
Robert Bernhardt, Margaret Griffioen-Drenth, Nandy Heule, Anne Hutten, Sheena Jamieson, Wendy Saunders, Erick Schuringa, Dennis Van Staalduinen, William Van Huizen, Nelly Westerhoff.

The publication of comments, opinions or advertising does not imply agreement or endorsement by either *Christian Courier* or the publisher.

Calvinist Contact Publishing Limited
4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, Ont.
L2W 1A1, Canada
Tel: (905) 682-8311 Fax: (905) 682-8313

No violence, no touch, no humanity

A Corner Brook, Newfoundland, public school has decreed that pupils can no longer touch each other at school — not on the playground, not in the halls, not in the classroom. The principal and staff were apparently of the opinion that too many school fights were taking place so they hoped to solve the problem by instituting the "no touch" rule. This Draconian remedy applies to friendly contact such as holding hands, hugging and playing tag as well as to hostile contact. One mother told a CBC host of "As It Happens" that her daughter came home crying because the teacher could not hug her anymore.

It seems that the fear of violence is running amok in this school. The cure seems worse than the disease. If I were a parent with school-aged children, I would rather have my child attend a school where fights break out than to have her go to a school where to touch another human being is considered an offense.

What kind of psychological damage can result from this no touch rule if applied long enough?

Ken Van Wyck at Christian Counselling in Toronto believes that the skin is closer to the soul than is the mind. He refers to Ashley Montagnu's statement in the book *Touching* that the skin is the largest organ of the body and that touching is central to how we know each other. He also quoted Virginia Satir, who has said that unless you get five hugs a day, you can't stay healthy.

Because touching is so central to being human, it can be abused, says Van Wyck. "Inappropriate touching damages the soul." But the Corner Brook school is teaching that touching is a bad thing, he says. "Learning the appropriate use of touch is what an educational institution should achieve."

Are we as a society going too far in trying to protect ourselves against violence? Perhaps more monitoring of the school yard will achieve fewer fights and more hugs at the Corner Brook school. Strange that this story should emanate from Newfoundland. One would expect Newfoundlanders to have more common sense. **BW**

Looking for true solidarity

We're glad that the public workers in Ontario are back to work and that they were able to work out a more humane way of cutting back on the work force. What has amazed many observers is that this generally non-militant union was able to stand its ground as well as it did. From news clips and stories one could notice among strikers a growing sense of solidarity.

This solidarity business has a habit of cutting two ways, however. It brings union members who took a stand closer together, and it alienates them from their employers and from those who crossed the picket lines.

I'm reminded of what my friend Ed Vanderkloet, former executive director of the Christian Labour Association of Canada, once said about solidarity. "The notion of workers' solidarity is based on a myth," he wrote in his book *In and Around the Workplace*. "To think that there's a natural bond that unites all the country's wage earners in a common fight against employers is a delusion of hopelessly confused minds" (Ed never was one to mince words).

But "Solidarity forever" is a myth even more because "it denies the biblical truth about good and evil, brokenness and healing. The line between right and wrong does not run between employers and employees, but between the sin of people and the grace of God," wrote Ed.

He described a more wholesome form of solidarity this way: "True solidarity in the workplace means striving for social justice, standing up for workers who are wronged, and championing the cause of the battered and the exploited." He denounced both the left-wing idea that the worker can do no wrong and the right-wing notion that the employer is always right.

Ultimately the question of true solidarity is expressed in the answer to the question "Who is my neighbor?" wrote Ed.

We hope that OPSEU members will know that answer as they return to work. **BW**

Letters/Feature

Promise Keepers: another mass appeal

Unlike CC writers Peter Slofstra and Erick Schuringa, I can't get excited about the Promise Keepers phenom.

I wasn't at Atlanta, but I did attend a local Promise Keepers meeting not so long ago. Within 20 minutes, I had to call my wife to pick me up and get me out of there. The lead speaker had a well-polished testimony. I believe his name was Randy. Sold at the age of 2 by his mother. Sold for a sewing machine (a Singer?). It starts to roll now. Sexually abused as a child. Not by one, not by two, but by three different people. The speaker weeps. The crowd emphasizes. The stomach turns.

We were told to shake hands with the guy next to us and to tell him that we love him. The chap next to me wore something polyester and yellow. With a Texas tie. I simply could not get the words of endearment out. He had no problem telling me he loved me, however, and tried to toss in a small hug for good measure.

"But you can't judge yet," you will object; "You haven't done the stadium thing yet." Is it just me? Is no one else bothered by the trend towards the mass Christian event?

First it was the Billy Graham Crusades. Why a crusade? Why a stadium? The subtext was subtle but clear: if 30,000 believers can convince 30,000 neighbors and backsliders to attend, in the emotional swirl that develops, with loud preaching, large choirs and a final "Just as I am," some might be caught and the inhibitions of those who don't have a plea but are really just afraid to admit it might be overwhelmed.

A need to overwhelm

The key word is *overwhelmed*. The staged Christian event is designed to overwhelm balance, healthy skepticism, a sense of irony and a detachment that must necessarily precede a new commitment. Schuringa wrote about barriers breaking down and was grateful because Atlanta "did not try to teach me all kinds of information." That is, differences were submersed and the Christian intellect bracketed.

In describing the appeal of the ancient Dionysian cult, the Jewish theologian Abraham Heschel may as well be describing Atlanta:

Time and again man discovers how blank, how dim and abrupt, is the light that comes from within. He does not have sufficient strength within his own power to transcend himself, to ensoul his deeds. It is in the state of frenzy that he hopes to encounter a power great enough to carry his person away from himself, that he hopes to be touched by what lies beyond form, order, limit and self.... It seems inconceivable for a person to be both sober and inspired, normal and holy. The mind must be overthrown to be illumined.

Plea for sobriety

How does one best craft a soul? How does one best invite others to join in on the Christian adventure? With 45,000 others, doing the wave and responding *en mass* to a leader? Can anything like that compare to conversation over a cup of coffee or an ounce or two of Glennfiddich?

Mass appeal

Why the mass appeal? Why is it that some men experience the godhead best in a stadium, submersing their individuality in a sea of men doing the wave, hugging and crying? Why is it that these men need to prime their intimate feelings in the context of tens of thousands of other men? Isn't that unnatural? Just a little bit weird? Has our gender become that enfeebled?

According to CC, at least 350 CRC pastors went to Atlanta. I suspect most trips were paid for by congregations and that those pastors qualified for study leave. When in many churches Reformed preaching is becoming more bland by the Sunday, it's too bad the time and money wasn't spend on some solid seminars at ICS.

Let's get back to being sober and inspired, normal and holy. It can be done.

John A. Tamming
Meaford, Ont.

Vacation expenses

Bill D. Hallsted

"I was wondering if you could have the treasurer write me a cheque for about $500."

The preacher's confusion was apparent. "What's the problem, Bob? We do have a benevolent fund, but I didn't realize you were in a bad spot."

"Oh, I'm not," Bob replied. "We just want to take a little fishing trip, and we'd like the church to help out with our expenses."

Speechless

Now the preacher was truly confused. You could tell. Preachers aren't often left without words.

Bob explained. "I just figured since other people had the church help pay for their vacations and their fishing tips and their weekend recreational things and all that, they'd probably help with mine as well."

The preacher finally regained his voice. "The church doesn't pay for anybody's vacation! We don't finance fishing trips!"

"Sure you do!" Bob protested. "I was talking to Sam, and he told me you'd helped him to the tune of over $600, just this year."

The preacher was incredulous. "Sam said we gave him $600 to use for his family's recreation?"

"Yeah. Well, not quite that way. He didn't say you gave it to him. He just used it anyway."

The preacher shook his head.

"OK, look," Bob scooted his chair a little closer and leaned forward. "How many Sundays has Sam's family been absent this summer?"

"I'm not sure. A lot. They've been gone to the lake, had some family reunions and quite a number of things. They've missed quite a few Sundays."

"Exactly. Now Sam told me that when they settled back after all the activity was over, they figured out how much their tithe should be for all the Sundays they missed during the year. It blew his mind! He said it added up to more than $700! And now they'd used so much money with all their running around this summer they didn't have an extra $700 lying around. So he said they just decided to drop in a hundred dollars extra and call it square. I figure that leaves the church paying for $600-worth of their vacations."

A little more honest

The preacher shook his head sadly. "Unfortunately, I'm afraid that's not unusual."

"My point exactly." Bob squirmed with excitement. "It's a common practise. Now since I've been careful to tithe every week — and I have, you know — and when we went on vacation, I left a cheque for the Sundays we'd be gone — and since things ought to be kept even all around — I figure it would be just as fair and maybe a little more honest if you had the treasurer write a cheque so it will show that it was the church that helped pay for my fishing trip. Since the church has done that for all these other people, the church sorta owes it to me. Don't you think?"

Whose money?

"But not everybody does that, Bob. Most of our people are really conscientious. If they aren't able to make up their missing tiths all at once, they make it up over a period of a month or two, but they do make it up. They recognize that that money belongs to God. They recognize the church's expenses go on just the same, whether they're in church or out fishing. They really don't force the church to pay for their recreation."

Bob was still insistent. "Some of them do."

The preacher shook his head sadly. "I know. A few. But not many, really. Anyway, there isn't any way I can have the treasurer write you a cheque. Even if a few people do finance their recreation that way, that doesn't make it right."

Bob seemed a little subdued. "I guess I'll just have to fish a little closer to home, then. Oh well, it was worth a try. See ya, Preacher."

The door closed softly behind him. The preacher shook his head one more time and went back to work.

Is the church not the Bride?

The concluding paragraph of Bert Hielema's interesting column "Can the male prevail?" (CC, March 15) left us wondering, especially the statement "Creation is the bride, not the church."

I am puzzled as to why he would use an Old Testament text (Isaiah 62:4-5) while there are several texts in the New Testament which state that Christ is the Bridegroom and we, his redeemed people, are his Bride (e.g., Eph. 5; Rev. 19 and 21). See also Article 38 of *Our World Belongs to God (A Contemporary Testimony)*.

Corrie de Jong
St. Catharines, Ont.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICES
Suite 1901, 20 Eglinton Ave. W.
Toronto, ON M4R 1K8
(416) 489-3350

- Marriage & family counselling
- Individual & group therapy
- Vocational assessments
- Seminars & workshops
- Conflict mediation to business
- Accredited AAMFT supervision for marriage and family therapists
- CAPE supervision

Feature

Good and evil on vacation

John Hiemstra

It was a spiritual experience to return "home" last summer to the land of cloud-draped mountains, old growth forests, totem poles and swift flowing rivers. After an absence of 17 years, I was again amazed by the beauty of northwest British Columbia. It shouts out God's praise (Psalms 8, 19, 29).

But there is also a dark side to this spiritual experience. As my family and I vacationed in the northwest, our experiences of wonder and beauty were often accompanied by brokenness. Evil seems to lurk behind so many aspects of creation.

Rain forest vanishing

The old-growth forest in Lakelse Lake Provincial Park, near Terrace, is a majestic place to camp. Imagine the wonder of tenting among trees large enough to provide the lumber to frame an entire house. Some trees were over 800 years old.

On hikes through this temperate rain forest we witnessed God fine tuning the lives of trees, animals, plants, insects and soil into an interconnected ecosystem. It was simply awesome! What a Creator!

But people don't always live in harmony with God and this shows in the discord between people and the rain forest. The tiny park we camped in is one of a few splinters of old-growth forest left in the northwest. Virtually every mountain carries large scars from logging.

Trees have been removed far faster than the sustainability rate. And some logging practices destroy the complex ecosystem-increasing erosion, decreasing stream quality, and reducing fish and animal populations. More dollars can be made by over-logging than by careful stewardship of the forests.

Salmon may spawn their last

The mighty rivers of the northwest also harbor a delicate balance. The greatest mystery in these rivers is the life cycle of the spawning salmon. We witnessed the awesome accuracy of Coho salmon returning from the vast Pacific Ocean to the exact culvert from which the hatchery had released them four years earlier. Accurate to within an inch! God is great!

Yet we also observed so many sports fishermen on the banks of the Skeena and Kitimat rivers that it seemed a miracle that any salmon got through to spawn that afternoon. And the much publicized Canada-Alaska conflict over the size of commercial salmon catches reveals a far greater threat to fish stocks.

GARY FEGEHEN

A clearcut hillside in British Columbia

As we drove through B.C., it seemed every river had a fish hatchery. The naturalist in the hatchery we toured said salmon stocks would virtually disappear if hatcheries did not support them. The damage from overfishing and human pressure on fish habitat are simply to great. So often, greed outweighs our sense of living in harmony with God's creation.

Historic canneries exploited non-whites

It was fascinating to tour the historic northwest coast cannery, now a museum near Prince Rupert. This museum shows the lavish generosity of God in the huge catches fishermen make in the "glory hole" at the mouth of Skeena. The museum shows how early fishing boats worked, how fish are actually caught, and how the canning system was modernized. Human culture-fishing techniques, nets, boats and factories — can also show the glory of God.

But darkness mars this history. While Europeans administered the canneries and fished, for example, other races were exploited. The Chinese — fresh from the drudgery of railroad building — were used to make cans and run machinery. Japanese boat builders were brought in to build and repair fishing boats. Native men fished on the boats while the women worked the assembly line. The cannery village functioned like apartheid, each race was kept in its own section. Pay, housing and work conditions were far superior for the Europeans. Profits seem to grow when employees are treated unjustly.

Is aluminum necessary to life?

My children enjoyed their first tour of a major industry at the Alcan Aluminum smelter in Kitimat. Aluminum is light, flexible and strong, indispensable for everything from airplanes to pop cans. Aluminum does not appear in pure form anywhere on earth. It takes a huge amount of energy to separate natural alumina into aluminum and oxygen. Alcan gets its electricity from the Kemano Dam, an amazing engineering feat in itself. A tunnel was built through the coastal mountains to divert part of the Netchako River into a hydro plant on the coast.

As beneficial as aluminum is, it does not come without problems. The B.C. government recently withdrew permission for the expanded Kemano II project because it would virtually empty the Netchako River and destroy fish and other aquatic life. On the Alcan tour, the company argued that if it did not exclusively own its hydro supply, international price fluctuations would force it to close down the Kitimat works. Alcan seems to believe that maximizing profit at every moment is the only way to run a company.

I was eager to share with my children the fascinating aboriginal cultures of the Skeena and Nass valleys. As a youth, I remember gazing at the towering and mysterious totem poles. We were not disappointed. A recreated native village in Hazleton, K'san, has reproduced five huge cedar longhouses and a number of totem poles. Each house is filled with cultural artifacts and art. There are workshops where native artists continue to carve and paint.

But racism also appears here. Most B.C. land claims have never been settled, leading to court battles. Fortunately, last spring the government agreed to a process for negotiating land claims and resource control. This has led some non-Natives to fear for their way of life and others to worry about lost profits.

In Christ Creation is regained

Most of us go on vacation for fun, and rightly so. But good and evil do not go away on vacation. Fortunately, as St. Augustine teaches, evil is not essential to creation, but is only the turning away from the Creator of a good nature (*City of God*, book 14). Praise be to God that faith in Jesus turns us back to God. That way we can again enjoy creation as a spiritual experience. The next step is to learn to use and care for creation as a spiritual experience.

GRACE DEUTSCH AND AVANTREA SWAN

Salmon swim upriver to their spawning grounds

John Hiemstra loves to go camping with his family and discover God's hand in the natural creation. At The King's University College, Edmonton, he teaches students to discover God's hand in the cultural part of God's creation.

Media/Arts

Film Review

A Family Thing an instructive family movie

Marian Van Til

A Family Thing

Rated PG.
Stars Robert Duvall, James Earl Jones, Imma P. Hall.
Written by Billy Bob Thornton and Tom Epperson.
Directed by Richard Pierce.

This movie about family is a family movie in the best sense. At age 60, white Arkansan Earl Pilcher (Robert Duvall) finds out via a letter from his just deceased mother, Cary, that she was really his step-mother. It turns out Earl's father had raped Cary's black housekeeper and friend, Willa Mae. Earl was the product of that abuse and Willa Mae died at his complicated birth.

Because he looks white, Earl was raised by Cary and her husband. Raymond, an older son of Willa Mae's was raised by black relatives in the North.

For a man such as Earl, blacks are merely "niggers" who live on the other end of town. For such a man to find out that he is half black creates gut-wrenching trauma.

It was Cary's wish that Earl find his half-brother and get to know him — as family. Though Earl is loath to do that, his respect for the woman he loved as his mother — and perhaps his own peculiar need to satisfy an unspoken curiosity he can't explain — leads him to set out for Chicago to find Ray Murdoch.

Avoiding stereotypes

Ray, being six years older than Earl, has known about the situation from childhood and, understandably, has nursed a six-decade-long seething hatred for Earl's father. He is as averse to meeting Earl as Earl is to meeting him.

There's a mediatating character in the form of Aunt T., Willa Mae's blind older sister, who lives with Ray and his divorced son, Virgil. Aunt T. is a wise, hospitable and forgiving matriarch of archetypal proporations. But for all that, she is a real person, and one you'd like to know.

Though this plot isn't exactly new, the three major actors pull it off well, avoiding the numerous possibilities for triteness, and creating a story that evokes authentic emotion.

Imma P. Hall creates an Aunt T. of good humor and grace, whose Christian faith has been her life-long anchor and helped her avoid the bitterness induced by racism. James Earl Jones and Robert Duvall, both exceptional actors, invest their characters a range of qualities, some likable, some not, that make them real human beings. In the hands of lesser actors Earl would be just another not-so-likeable redneck who not-so-believably sees the light, and Ray would be just another jovial, stereotypical black man as seen through white eyes.

Instead, though we anticipate that the men will eventually come to appreciate each other, we see a transformation that feels real because it saps their mental and physical resources and comes about gradually and in unexpected ways.

The film contains several instances of vulgar language, but when it occurs it is appropriate to the characters and situations involved and is not gratuitous. There is no profanity; in fact, in one instance when Virgil begins to utter a profane phrase, Aunt T. chides him, vowing that no one is going to take the Lord's name in vain in *her* house.

A Family Thing is both a moving story and one that may nudge viewers to re-examine their own racial attitudes. As such, it is both a good family film and one that could serve well as a teaching tool for school or church groups.

CC FILES

James Earl Jones (left) and Robert Duvall star in A Family Thing

Sports

Can you adopt a team for next year's Special Olympics?

TORONTO (Canadian Scene) — Next February, Canada will be the host of the Special World Winter Olympics, a great humanitarian event which appeals to the heart of all people who value understanding above prejudice. The mission of the Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for children (eight years and up) and adults with mental disabilities. Around the world there are accredited Special Olympics programs in more than 130 countries on every continent except Antarctica. These programs are supported by hundreds of thousands of people who believe that mental disability should not shut a person off from the rest of the world. Videos of previous Special Olympics, both winter and summer, testify to the joy the athletes experience in competing.

The next Winter Olympics event will take place in Toronto and Collingwood, Ont., from Feb. 1 to 8, 1997. Its organizers are seeking community organizations, corporations or individuals who will "adopt" teams of competing athletes during their stay in Canada at a cost of $1,000 per athlete. Over 80 countries, from Albania to Zimbabwe, are expected to send athletes to the Games. The featured sports are alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, floor hockey, figure skating, speed skating and snowshoeing. In all, 2,000 athletes are expected, accompanied by a similar number of family members, together with 500 coaches. And 1,500 Canadian volunteers will be needed to make the Games run smoothly.

Toronto businessperson Ed Chmielewski and his colleagues in the Knights of Columbus have already collected $20,000 of the $50,000 needed to "adopt" Poland's team of 50 competitors in the 1997 Winter Games. Physician John Lee Pan and lawyer Kai Tao are working with the Chinese community to sponsor athletes from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, forgetting political differences between these countries. Manuela dalla Nora is heading planning for the Italian community and Frank Brence is targeting the Slovenian community.

Already, says Janice Martin, director of outreach for the 1997 Games, more than 30 ethnocultural communities are currently in the planning stage for the adoption program. She invites inquiries to: 1997 Special Olympics World Winter Games, 56 John Street, Metro Hall, 8th Floor, Station 1084, Toronto, ON M5V 3C6. Telephone (416) 397-9261; fax: (416) 397-9251 or toll free 1-800-557-9777.

Going to Holland this spring or summer?
We have excellent prices.

Prompt, expert, reliable service.
Please call
Irma VandenDool
(905) 562-3410
Travel consultant for
BRINKMAN TRAVEL ST. CATHARINES

Meyer, Wassenaar & Banach
Barristers & Solicitors
4856 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario. M2N 5N2
Telephone (416) 223-9191
Willem J.B. Meyer, Q.C. *Sy L. Wassenaar, Q.C.*
Martin Banach, LL.B.

Experienced Mediators
The RIGHT solution to difficult problems
John Hovius
Lawyer, Mediator
Hank Van Dooren
Social Worker, Mediator
135 James St. S., #425, Hamilton, ON L8P 2Z6
(905) 526-0780 or (905) 689-3966

van der Woerd
LAW OFFICE
David A. van der Woerd B.A., LL.B.
20 Jackson Street West, Suite 512, Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1L2
Tel. (905) 577-6205 Fax (905) 577-9498

Church

The Voice of the Martyrs

'Servants of the Persecuted Church' mark 25th anniversary

The Voice of the Martyrs *logo*

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. (VOM) — June 7-8, 1996, marks the 25th anniversary of the mission Voice Of The Martyrs in Canada.

It had humble beginnings in 1971 when Nellie Brobbel, then in St. Thomas, Ont., was asked by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand to take care of the donations from the meeting he held in Canada. The purpose of those meetings was to tell people in the Western world of the persecution of Christians by the Communist regimes of Russia and Eastern Europe.

Pastor Wurmbrand and his wife, Sabina, were imprisoned, tortured and sentenced to hard labor in their native Romania because they refused to stop preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After 13 years in prison, including three years of solitary confinement, Pastor Wurmbrand was ransomed to freedom.

Blessings to the persecuted church

"After reading *Tortured For Christ* by Pastor Wurmbrand," Nellie Brobbel said, "it was impossible for me to forget the suffering saints." Her response has brought 25 years of blessings to the persecuted church.

The June celebration will include a banquet and conference held at the Ontario Bible College to celebrate the past 25 years of achievement, to inform Canadians about Voice of the Martyrs' work today and to provide a vision for the future.

Persecution of Christians has not disappeared with the waning of Communist powers in the Eastern Bloc. The attacks on believers continue worldwide from political and religious groups. Voice of the Martyrs provides Bibles, Christian literature and living support to sufferers and their families who are often left without support while parents are imprisoned.

For more information contact Klaas and Nellie Brobbel: Voice Of The Martyrs, P.O. Box 117, Port Credit, Mississauga, ON L5G 4L5, (905) 276-6210; fax: (905) 276-0225.

Dutch church union back on course

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (REC) — After an October meeting that could come to no clear decision on the future of a church union process, a January meeting of the three churches involved set things right again. The three churches, two Reformed and one Lutheran, have been in the process "Together on the Way" (TotW) for several years. As the churches debated a proposed church order, oppositions sharpened, primarily within the Nederlands Hervormde Kerk (NHK).

A combination synod of the churches, meeting Jan. 25-27, clearly decided to continue. They rejected calls for a federation rather than a union. They acknowledged, however, that the process may take longer than expected, since support at the regional levels for the new church order needed to be stronger.

Fragmented opposition

The main opponent of the union is the Reformed Alliance (*Gereformeerde Bond*), a group that makes up about a third of the NHK. At the January meeting, the Alliance was not unanimous. Some members boycotted the meeting, having already decided never to join in the future United Protestant Church in the Netherlands. Others joined the debate, but were working to bring the process to a halt. A third group worked for the union, seeking a protected place for people in minority groups like theirs.

The Lutherans, on the other hand, were growing impatient with the process, and had sent a message that they had to know what progress was being made. Otherwise, they would have to consider whether they had the determination and energy to continue.

The decision that there could be greater co-operation even during discussion may be the signal the Lutherans have been waiting for.

South Africa arrests suspects in Capetown church massacre

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (REC) — Two soldiers and a prison inmate have been arrested in connection with the 1993 attack on St. James Church in Capetown. On July 25, 1993, five gunmen burst into this multiracial Protestant church and opened fire, killing 11 people.

On January 26, the police announced that two soldiers who were allegedly former members of Azanian People's Liberation Army had been arrested. The Azanian army had carried out a violent campaign to end the period of white rule before the 1994 elections. A third man was a 19-year-old prisoner, who was being held on charges of stealing a refrigerator.

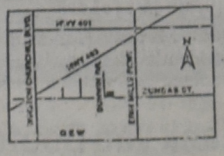
One other man had been tried and sentenced in April 1995. He was sentenced to 23 years in prison for his part in the slayings. That man, 19-year-old Christopher Makoma, was a member of the Pan African Congress. After his sentencing, he turned to the gallery in the court, raised his hand in the Congress's open-handed salute, and shouted its slogan, "One settler, one bullet."

TIME FOR NEW FURNITURE?
Come and see our beautiful showroom with the European flair!

SCHRÖDER FURNITURE

... for that special item!

Our "coil" spring furniture has all the support and comfort you need.



Mississauga Dundas St. - 2 Blocks W. of Erin Mills Parkway (905) 828-9511

W & H VOORTMAN LTD. TRADITIONAL FAMILY BAKING QUALITY GUARANTEED

Voortman

Over 40 Varieties of Fine Cookies

Church

Laura Smit

CHAPTER & VERSE

Unscripted love

"Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Will you question me about my children, or command me concerning the work of my hands?" (Is. 45:11).

Like many people who spend a good deal of time alone, I habitually talk to myself. I talk through my schedule, and about papers I'm writing and ideas I need to clarify. I preach sermons to myself before I ever preach them to a congregation. But, most of all, I talk through my relationships with other people.

Most of the time when I appear to be talking to myself I'm really talking to someone else who is present only in imagination. I rehearse anticipated confrontations and re-stage past conversations with which I am dissatisfied. In my imagination, I always have an appropriate retort, and my conversation partner never asks a question for which I don't have an answer.

French philosopher Simone Weil writes of the same sort of experience when writing letters. She says that she anticipates the answer she will receive from her friend and can not imagine the possibility that he will answer in any way other than that which her imagination has scripted for him. But real responses may bear no resemblance to the ones anticipated. We may be startled or disturbed by another's stubborn insistence on being independent of our desires and imaginations.

Real people

Weil says that we are all tempted to live in a world which we create and control in our own imaginations, but we must resist this temptation. We are tempted to see other people as characters in a play which we have written, but we must instead be attentive to other people as purely *real* — as having an independent existence not oriented to us. Recognizing this is the primary way in which I show love to my neighbor. Real love she defines as "belief in the existence of human beings as such."

Love begins when I can look at the tattered panhandler next to the subway entrance and see not just an annoying presence, but a person as *real* as myself, who feels hunger as truly as I do, who desires happiness as truly as I do. Love begins when I can look at my boss and see not just an adversary in a pre-planned conversation, but a person as *real* as myself, with an equal level of consciousness and an independent set of hopes and dreams.

The most completely independent and real being with whom we interact in our lives is God himself. But it strikes me that a good deal of my prayer life consists of talking to God, too, as if I were creating a script which I expect him to follow. Rather than giving God my full attention and learning to see him in all his solidity as freely and independently existing through all eternity, I want him to be a useful character in my life's drama, stepping in as needed to rescue me.

In *A Grief Observed*, C.S. Lewis talks about our need to surrender such limiting illusions of God: *Images of the Holy easily become holy images — sacrosanct. My ideas of God is not a divine idea. It has to be shattered time after time. He shatters it himself. He is the great iconoclast. Could we not almost say that this shattering is one of the marks of His presence? The Incarnation is the supreme example; it leaves all previous ideas of the Messiah in ruins.... All reality is iconoclastic.*

To love God is to revel in the ways he shatters our illusions and moves beyond our preconceptions. To love God is to give him our full attention, delighting in his existence and coming to know his nature. To love God is to have real conversations with him, in which we hear him speak to us lines which we would not have anticipated and have never scripted.

Laura Smit is a minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She is currently doing doctoral work in philosophical aesthetics at Boston University, Boston, Mass.

U.S. Christians unite to oppose gambling

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (REC) — Christians from all streams are uniting to oppose gambling in the United States, where gambling has become a $400 billion-a-year industry. In January, a group called the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling set up offices in Washington, D.C. The coalition is supported by both conservative and liberal groups.

Representatives of the Christian Coalition, a political group organized by TV evangelist Pat Robertson, and of the liberal National Council of Churches attended the opening.

The coalition against gambling is not yet promoting any legislation but does support the formation of a national commission to study the effects of gambling. Gambling has been spreading rapidly in recent years. The number of casinos in the U.S. has doubled to 500 in the last five years alone. Many state governments also use lotteries to raise money without raising taxes.

The coalition's director, Thomas Grey, said the group is also receiving support from Roman Catholics and from Muslim groups in the U.S. Grey said gambling was not just a moral question, but also one of good government and good economics.

Bulgarian evangelicals appeal for tolerance

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (REC) — Several Bulgarian Protestant churches have gone public with a complaint that they face widespread prejudice from the government and media. The Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance has sent a letter to Bulgaria's President, Zhelio Zhelev, and to two international church organizations, the World Council of Churches (WCC), and the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

The Protestants lay part of the blame for their treatment on the Orthodox Church, which claims 87 per cent of the people as members. They noted there was a campaign against "sects," but there was little clarity about what a sect was. Most of the mass media treat all Protestants as sects, though some of these churches have been in Bulgaria for over 100 years, say the protesters.

The declaration noted the alliance's great concern about Orthodox Patriarch Maxim's visit to President Zhelev last year. Maxim requested the president's help to ban and expel the "unorthodox sects."

Both the WCC and the CEC said they were aware of the situation and had been monitoring it for some time. Baptist groups have also been watching the treatment of Baptists in Bulgaria for several years.

C.E.C.

CHURCH ENVELOPE COMPANY INC.

P.O. Box 1184 Postal Station "B" Mississauga, ON L4Y 3W5

- Weekly Budget Envelopes
- Contributions Recording Systems
- Beautiful bulletin covers for all occasions — ask for samples

John and Henny Tjoelker: Phone (905) 277-0576 Fax: (905) 277-5779

KLM to Holland from $658
1 week car rental $75
AirTransat charters 5% discount
Call for details!

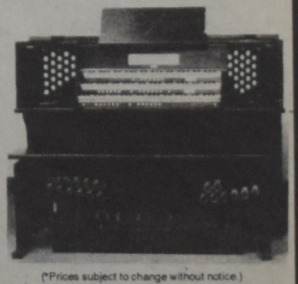
VALENTINE TRAVEL
(905) 890-5333/Toll Free 1-800-268-6144
London (519) 472-2700/Toll Free 1-800-265-1141
St. Catharines (905) 935-9103

CONTENT DIGITAL SAMPLING ORGANS

- DUTCH CD's & TAPES
- PIANO & ORGAN LESSONS
- SHEET MUSIC
- ALSO PIANOS

NEW Full size digital sampling organs - $6,995.00 *

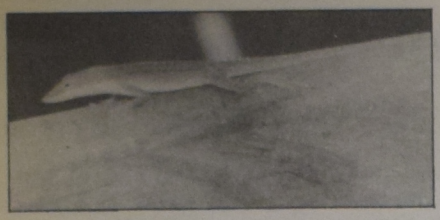
Tel./Fax (905) 631-1929 or 1-800-376-7199



(*Prices subject to change without notice.)

THE MUSIC GROUP
Willem Van Suydam, General Manager
5205 Harvester Rd., Unit 2, Burlington, ON L7L 6B5
Open daily. Appointment preferred.

Feature



Forget the condos and beaches—

Marian Van Til

Thousands of Canadians take winter or spring holidays in Florida. Thousands more, especially Ontarians, live in the Sunshine State at least part time. They're attracted, of course, by large doses of warm weather, sun and ocean beaches; the chance for young and old to escape snow, bitter winds, gray skies....

If Florida holidays are synonymous with lying on condo-lined beaches and going to Disneyworld, one can do that for only so long. There is another Forida, one of exquisite beauty and diversity, and one not found only in the Everglades.

Since my husband and I both have office jobs we plan vacations which allow us to enjoy God's good creation as much as possible. This year, for a week in February, we joined the Canadians on the Gulf coast of Florida.

Unexpected oasis

Our homebase was with relatives in Bradenton, so we began to look for outdoor places to which to make day trips. Later we would camp one night so we could go slightly farther afield. (We've found it's quite possible to take adequate camping gear along, even if you're flying.) We were blessed with sunshine and temperatures in the high 80s Fahrenheit every day but the last, when it rained.

Our first stop was nearby: the Marie Selby Gardens, which proved to be a bayside oasis in the middle of the city of Sarasota, next door to Bradenton.

Marie Selby and her husband, though very wealthy, lived quite modestly and shunned partying with their "society" peers in the early decades of the century. An avid naturalist, Marie instead spent her time developing their acreage into a garden retreat. She later willed the land to the state, stipulating that the gardens must always be available to the public. They are, for a modest fee (plus a discount if you're a CAA member).

Upon entering, the first allure is a conservatory full of the pungent sweetness of exotic orchids and numerous other tropical flowers. Then you can wind your way down various boardwalk paths, the main one a few feet from the water's edge.

The hundreds of plant species include those medicinal and edible (and several varieties of palm), a butterfly garden and various mangroves. As you walk, you repeatedly enter shady areas and re-emerge into sunshine, making friends with lizards, butterflies and birds on the way. Nicely interspersed are benches for rest or contemplation, some nestled among the shrubs and trees, some looking out over Sarasota Bay.

Corkscrew Swamp beckons

There's a small museum and gift shop on the property, but the place is decidedly uncommercial.

Home and healing for injured birds

If you enjoy birds, a visit to The Conservancy near Naples (70 or so miles south of Sarasota/Bradenton) will be fascinating. A privately owned rehabiliation centre (one of several along the coast), The Conservancy is staffed largely by 80 enthusiastic and well-informed volunteers, a dozen or so at a time. Even the vets and surgeons donate their time.

This is a "hospital," not a zoo. Admission is via donation, which includes a half-hour quiet glide via electric boat out of a tiny lagoon and down a mangrove-lined canal.

Water birds are the main attraction, though there are other species too. The pelicans and cormorants will especially delight children. The latter, coal-black, gawky-necked water birds, have an odd-looking habit: they have little oil on their feathers and must dry them after diving. They find a dry stretch of "beach" and spread their large wings wide to catch the air. Even in the wild, while in this posture they are not easily startled and it is possible to get very close to them. While drying they look like nothing so much as huge, upright, orange-mouthed bats.

Pelicans meet all manner of doom from humankind: they get their long bills caught in fishing nets; their pouches chopped by fish hooks; their beaks cracked, who knows how.

Some birds can be nursed to health and released. But some will never be able to fish or fly again; others come here having been imprinted on humans, a permanent attachment. They are too acclimatized to people to be able to fend for themselves if brought back to the wild.

One avian Conservancy resident is now something of a celebrity. He arrived a year or so ago with the top half of his bill having been torn off. No

PHOTOS: MARIAN VAN TIL

Drying in the sun

Mangroves line a canal

there is another Florida

"A dysfunctional extended family of wood storks scream at each other incessantly...."

longer being able to fish, he was near starvation. Just before we visited, he had been fitted with a new molded-plastic upper bill, a medical first which was picked up by nationwide TV. The new bill was attached by special screws, which veternary surgeons are hoping will hold (the bills aren't bone; they're more like fingernail material).

The spotlighted recipient of these attentions did indeed seem grateful: he now spends almost all his time proudly preening himself, something he couldn't do for months.

The Conservancy also has a small museum/aquarium. There you can study the geology of the area, and many of the displays are touchable. We were fortunate enough (or unfortunate enough) to see two snake species get their once-in-two-weeks feeding of live mice and rats. Never have I had such sympathy for rats!

The boatride illustrated, beyond further acquaintance with flora and fauna, the power of wealth: the canal takes a fairly straight eight-mile course to the Gulf. It was dug some years ago strictly so that wealthy residents in the area could have Gulf access for their boats.

"Top-dog" pelican shows off his new top bill

Surprising swamp

An especially rejuvenating outing was a visit to the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp, east of Naples, which resulted in an afternoon of quiet communing with nature, and splendid isolation.

If you picture swamps as vast tracts of mud, dirty water and engulfing vegetation infested with assorted nasty creepy-crawly things, not so! Most swamps are diverse ecosystems, and only partly under water (usually shallow). The water is pristine; its black or dark green look comes from swamp-floor vegetation.

The sturdy two-mile long boardwalk is the only human-made thing you'll see. One naturally becomes quiet here, as when entering a beautiful cathedral, but this one made by God himself.

There are sunny meadows of deciduous trees; tiny wild flowers, interesting grasses, ferns and the magnificent bald cypresses with their "knees" breaking the water — one of the last large stands of bald cypress in North America.

Lizards large and small skurry up tree trunks or sun themselves on the walk. A large pileated woodpecker hammers away on one tree, then another; a community of turtles suns on a log, five in a row; a cormorant dries its wings while observing us with beady eyes; a dysfunctional extended family of wood storks scream at each other incessantly from their huge tree-top condo; an alligator suns amidst the sea lettuce; a limpkin (a large brown-spotted water bird with long, spikey beak) squawks raucously; a great blue heron, just visible amid submerged young trees, pokes jerkily here and there for a meal and a second later poses triumphantly, a fish still wiggling in its bill.

Corkscrew Swamp contains one of the largest remaining stands of bald cypress trees

The endangered Florida panther lives here, too, as do other cougars, deer and bear.

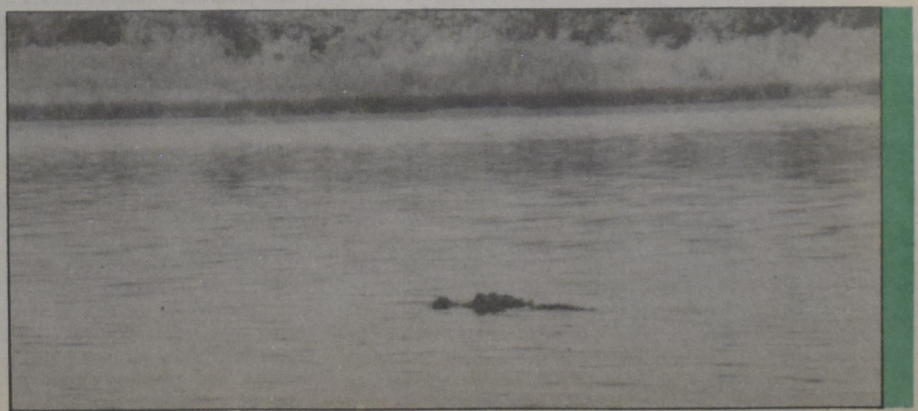
Florida State Parks also have much to offer. We tented at Collier-Seminole State Park, near the coast, north of the Everglades — the first time we've ever pitched a tent between palm trees. The helpful campground hosts were a Canadian couple from Milton, Ont.

Watch out for 'logs'

Back near Bradenton, inland 25 miles, is Myakka River State Park. There, we shunned the noisy airboat ride in favor of a "tram" ride through the forest. The ranger was top-notch, a "cracker," as the rural white settlers and their descendents are called, who knew as much about the area as anyone could, it seemed, and imparted his knowledge by telling stories.

Another experience at Myakka had our friends telling us we were crazy: we rented a canoe and blithely paddled out into the alligator-infested lake. The floating "logs" were everywhere, which *did* make us nervous at first. (Later we discovered "alligator precautions" on the back of our receipt; e.g., don't bring small dogs with you. Advice which elicits a fairly gruesome mental picture.)

Common sense had already told us not to get too close and to keep our lunch scraps in the canoe. Despite their reputations, alligators mostly swim away if approached. So we were soon merrily co-existing, both enjoying the hot summer — uh, winter — sun!



A canoe-side view of one of Florida's animal predators: "Don't take small pet dogs with you...."

The need for spirituality

A courageous editorial in **The Anglican Journal** *of March 1996 reports that bishops have met with premier Mike Harris "to voice disapproval with his economic reforms." The paper criticizes the fact that church leaders spend their energy in "the secular political arena while their churches are slowly collapsing from shrinking numbers and income." It is not that the church may not be concerned about politics ("Christianity touches all aspects of life"), but the church needs first of all "to focus on spirituality."*

"Why were these prelates pressing the premier so? The government was elected by voters clearly unhappy with fiscal policies one suspects the bishops were not so uncomfortable with. If the episcopate wants to challenge the electorate, there's a better way.

"The world is crying out for spiritual sustenance. It's a dry and thirsty ground that is trying to sustain people as they cope with the stresses of work or unemployment, family troubles or loneliness, guilt, anger and lovelessness.

"But where are the Anglicans? Promoting feel-good liturgies or defending daily use of archaic English. Restating our theological roots in confounding documents clouded with inessentials or angrily hacking at those roots which nourish us to fashion God in our image.

"And our bishops? Finding their own houses in shambles, they're off telling democratically elected governments how to run the country. Would that the bishops and clergy stop for one moment and give their people what they yearn for: a drink of spirituality.

"After all, that's supposedly what clergy are trained for. But are they?

"The cultivation of spirituality is not a head-in-the-sand approach to life. It is getting priorities straight. Spiritual teaching leads not only to a deepened love of God, but a deepened love of neighbor. What better way to influence secular politics?

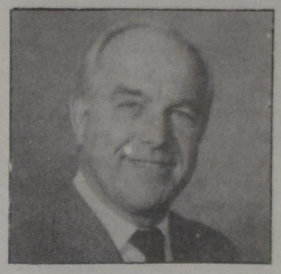
"Lent is a time not for wallowing in the guilt of our sinful state but for replenishment and growth. It is the time to fill the soul with water that turns into a spring gushing up to eternal life.

"This Lent, if you're planning to give up something, try denying yourself one of the world's dry biscuits of sitcoms or cheap novels and dip into the refreshing waters of a spiritual book.

"And maybe buy one for your bishop — or your premier."

Church press quotes

Jacob Kuntz



Morgentaler and the Pope

Apparently Dr. Henry Morgentaler has written letters to the Pope and the Catholic Bishops in Canada "in which he has urged them to cease from engaging in rhetoric he feels is endangering the well-being of abortionists in this country." this news has to be met, says **The Catholic Register** *(Feb. 12) "with some amazement and amusement."*

"...Amazement that an individual who has actively promoted the means leading to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of unborn Canadians would dare to write to and castigate a man who has made the sanctity of all human life one of the main themes of his papacy and who has elevated the principle of right-to-life to the level of the Gospel.

"Amusement from the fact that the cause which Morgentaler espouses is so bereft of any moral propriety, he has to stoop to the level of writing to the Pope and to calling a press conference in order to draw attention to himself.

"The apparent reason for Morgentaler's latest statement is the wounding by gunshot of a Hamilton abortionist in November. This followed a similar attack against a Vancouver abortionist a year earlier and the bombing of Morgentaler's flagship abortion clinic in Toronto a few years previous to that.

"The fact that no one has ever been charged or even suspected in connection with any of these incidents or with any other violent act against abortionists in Canada does not seem to have deterred Morgentaler in his crusade against persons of pro-life persuasion in general and Catholics in particular.

"For Morgentaler, choice seems to be applicable only within the narrow definition he assigns to it. In his ideology, he and a pregnant woman have a choice because they can kill an unborn child if they so desire, but the unborn child and the taxpayer who often has to foot the bill are not given any kind of choice.

"Aside from the illogic of Morgentaler's rantings, what is most disappointing about this episode in the abortion controversy is the mainstream media's willingness to once again grant Morgentaler a public forum and thus lend credence to what he has to say. It would be preferable if the media would simply ignore him and allow his ideas to remain within the intellectual vacuum in which they exist."

Growing Christian school support

It is encouraging to see how in evangelistic circles the support for the Christian schools is growing and how there is developing a better and deeper understanding of the motives that drive Christian parents to establish Christian schools. A good example is an editorial in **Christian Week** *of Feb. 27 by Harold Jantz, called, "Independent schools have growing appeal." It says that "a movement has been growing across Canada that is bound to have a profound impact on Christianity in this country and on the country as a whole. It is the Christian school movement." It mentions the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools as "undoubtedly the strongest and best equipped Christian school association in Canada." We quote the last paragraph of the editorial:*

"Christian schools of the kind found in many evangelical, Mennonite or Christian Reformed church settings can make an enormous contribution. At a time when our society is growing increasingly fragmented, they can provide teaching rooted in the Gospel of Christ that integrates lives, undergirds community, and truly engages the minds and energies of their students. When their teachers live and practise their beliefs, they can equip their students to share their faith and live for the good of others, because of Christ, as few public schools can do. Christian schools represent marvellous opportunities to build children and young people at the very core of their being, igniting and channelling not merely their minds, but their enthusiasms and their physical energies as well. Many of them do so remarkably well. They deserve our support."

The role of the church

Several churches and church leaders were not happy with the suggestion of Ontario premier Harris that churches should help those people who are hurt by the spending cuts and criticized him for them.

But John Congram, of the **Presbyterian Record** *(March 1996), has something else to say. Even though he agrees that now "a disproportionate share of the pain is borne by the poor," he also feels that churches should welcome the opportunity to help those who have no helper.*

"Secondly, the cuts should also involve the churches in a little soul-searching. We may not have liked it when Mike Harris said the churches should help people because 'that's why they are there.' But he is right. We should also honestly admit that, although many churches give themselves sacrificially for others, some are run like private country clubs for the benefit of their members. Without a serious review of our own commitment and generosity, criticism of government cutbacks by the church will sound and, in fact, be self-righteous and phoney.

"In the early days of Canada, the church established and ran most schools and carried out most acts of charity. As governments gradually assumed more responsibility in these areas, some wondered what role the church might retain. For the present, at least, we can suspend that discussion.

"It's OK for the church to protest against tax cuts; but, should they materialize, nothing prevents you from passing on these benefits to charity. Lots of church-run agencies would welcome this desperately needed money.

"For the church, hard times don't exist. There are times of testing, however, and opportunities to be generous in an age of greed."

Jacob Kuntz is a retired Christian Reformed pastor who lives in Brampton, Ont., where he works half time in Holland Chr. Homes.

VACATION 1996

Christy's Cove Summer Resort

Britt, ON P0G 1A0
on Magnetawan River at Georgian Bay
• Reasonable rates • No G.S.T. • games court
• Water craft available • playground • restaurant • beach
Hosts: Marie, Christina and Jonathan Wiersma
(705) 383-2930

Little Europe Resort and Trailer Park

Bracebridge, Muskoka

Plan a successful vacation at our resort known for its Dutch hospitality. Reasonable rates for cottage rentals. Excellent for camping, swimming and fishing (ideal for group camping). "Little Europe" is located 10 km. east of Hwy. 11, on Hwy. 118 East, past the Muskoka Airport.

• No pets please • Showers available
Roel & Riet Bakema
Little Europe Resort, R.R. 3, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1X1
Phone: (705) 645-2738

Alton Lodges

Family resort, clean housekeeping cottages, very close to 9 miles of sandy beach, excellent golf courses, fishing and many other attractions.

For information contact:
Len & Rita Bette
459 Mosley St.
Wasaga Beach, ON L0L 2P0
Phone: (705) 429-2420

Bed & Breakfast

Beautiful Niagara Falls.
A pleasant 15 min. walk to the Falls.
Friendly home, nice rooms. Superb breakfast. Dutch spoken.
Mike & Joan Havinga
(905) 358-3534

For Rent

Completely furnished chalet in the Blue Mountain area. Living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two 3-piece bathrooms. Beautiful view of the Beaver Valley and Georgian Bay.
$300 weekly/$150 weekends.

Note: Before June 8, 1996, also available for weekends only (Friday till Sunday or Monday).

For more info. call Sake or Chelsey Dykstra at

(519) 599-3789 or write to:
Box 7, R.R. 2, Clarksburg, ON N0H 1J0

CAMP SHALOM

REGULAR Camps (Cost: **$169.00**, includes taxes)

June 30-July 5	Grades 4 - 6
July 7-July 12	Grades 7- 9
July 14-July 19	Grades 4 - 6
July 28-Aug. 2	Grades 4 - 6
Aug. 4-Aug. 9	Grades 7 - 9
Aug. 11-Aug. 16	Grades 4 - 6

SENIOR WEEK (Cost: **$175.00**, includes taxes)
Aug. 18-Aug. 23 Grades 10-12

WILDERNESS CAMP
Cost **$179.00**, includes taxes.

June 30-July 5
July 7-July 12
July 14-July 19
July 21-July 26
July 28-Aug. 2
Aug. 4- Aug. 9
Aug. 11-Aug. 16

MUNCHKIN CAMP
Cost **$72.00**, includes taxes

July 14-July 16
July 17-July 19
Aug. 4-Aug. 6
Aug. 7-Aug. 9
Aug. 11-Aug. 13
Aug. 14-Aug. 16

SPECIAL NEEDS CAMP
July 21-July 26
Cost: **$158.25**, includes taxes.

KILLARNEY CANOE TRIP
Aug. 4-Aug. 9
Cost: **$300.00**, includes taxes

Camp Shalom Summer Camps
R.R. No. 4
Cambridge, ON N1R 5S5
Telephone: (519) 623-4860
"A Ministry of the Reformed Church in America"

Plan Early!

For This Year's Vacation
See Our New

1996 STARCRAFT & PALOMINO HARDTOP TRAILERS

Prowler

We RENT from Hardtops to Motorhomes
We INSTALL Hitches, Electric Brakes

HALTON TRAILER SALES & RENTALS
(905) 877-4266

Trafalgar Rd. & Hwy. 7, Georgetown, ON L7G 4S4
Jake and Linda Marissen

Lang's Resort Rice Lake

Cottage & Camping Resort, geared for family holidays. Clean comfortable HK cottages, lakefront camping sites.

Write or phone:
Lang's Resort & Campground
R.R. #3, Roseneath, ON K0K 2X0
(905) 352-2308

Pioneer Camps

providing an atmosphere in which to declare Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; to challenge campers to grow personally and to experience God in His creation.

British Columbia Pioneer
(604) 325-1715
Alberta Pioneer
(403) 462-4208
Saskatchewan Pioneer
(306) 664-4771
Manitoba Pioneer
(204) 663-1481
Ontario Pioneer
(705) 385-2370

Inter-Varsity
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA

IVCF's triennial mission conference, Urbana 96, is happening Dec. 27-31, 1996. Call (905) 884-6880 for more information.

Classifieds

Classified Rates

(Revised February 1, 1995)

Births $25.00
Marriages & Engagements $40.00
Anniversaries $45.00
2-column anniversaries . $90.00
Obituaries $45.00
Notes of thanks $35.00
Birthdays $40.00

All other one-column classified advertisements: $15.00 per column inch. NOTE: Minimum fee is $15.00. Letter under file number $35.00 extra. Photos: $25.00 additional charge.

Note: All rates shown above are GST inclusive

ATTENTION!

a) *Christian Courier* reserves the right to print classifieds using our usual format.,

b) A sheet with information about an obituary sent by funeral homes is *not* acceptable since it leads to errors and confusion.

c) Photographs sent by fax *are not* acceptable. If you wish a photo included, send us the original.

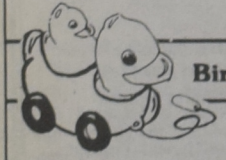
d) *Christian Courier* will not be responsible for any errors due to handwritten or phoned-in advertisements.

e) The rate shown above for classifieds covers any length up to five column inches. *Christian Courier* reserves the right to charge for additional column inches at the rate of $15.00 per column inch (GST incl.).

NEWLYWEDS & NEW PARENTS

We offer a one-year subscription for only $25.00 (GST incl.) to the couples whose wedding is announced in the *Christian Courier* and to the parents of the child whose birth announcement appears in our paper. To facilitate matters, we encourage those who request the wedding or birth announcement to enclose $25.00 and the couple's correct address.

Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Rd.
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1
Phone: (905) 682-8311
Fax: (905) 682-8313



Births

STEENBEEK (nee WINTER):
With joy and thanks to God, Mike, Mary-Jo and Jennifer are proud to announce the birth of
KATHRYN LYNNORE
Born on March 6, 1996, at 7:35 a.m., weighing 9 lbs., 3 oz.
Grandparents are Ben and Julie Winter and Andy and Ina Steenbeek. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Winter, Mr. and Mrs. A. Westerhuis, Mr. and Mrs. W. Steenbeek and Mr. and Mrs. I. Boonstra.

Birthdays

WIERENGA:
Thankful to the Lord, we celebrate the 80th birthday of our mother,
HARRIET WIERENGA
born April 10, 1916, in East Friesland, Wisconsin.
Her children:
Dixie & Bill Vanden Born — Edmonton, Alta.
Karen, Mark, Ann, Joan, Elaine
Peter & Anne Wierenga — Adelaide, Australia
Todd, Lauren
Jean & Clarence Weening — Calgary, Alta.
Chris, Julie, Matthew, Rachel
Herman Wierenga & Darlene MacDonald — Ottawa, Ont.
Philip, Alena
and five great-grandchildren.
Address: #214, 10041-149 St., Edmonton, AB T5P 4V7

Marriages

WESTSTEYN/BRENT:
Evert and Hilda Brent of Brampton, Ont., are pleased to announce the marriage of their son
JOHN HENRY
to
ELIZABETH ADRIENNE
daughter of Anky Weststeyn and the late Archie Weststeyn of Georgetown, Ont.
The wedding will take place, D.V., May 11, 1996, at 3 p.m., in the Georgetown Chr. Ref. Church, Pastor Peter Hoytema of Hamilton, Ont., officiating.
As parents we wish them God's richest blessings in their life together.
Address: R.R. #2, Brampton, ON L6V 1A1

Anniversaries

Hyken Beamsville
1946 1996
On April 25, 1996, D.V., we hope to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents
RICK and HILLIE DOORNBOS
(nee DATEMA)
We thank the Lord for watching over them during trials and happy times. We pray for continued blessings in years to come.
Congratulations and love from your children and grandchildren.
Ineke & George Lukanchoff — St. Catharines, Ont.
Chris, Stephen, Caroline (Matthew, Michelle)
Martin Doornbos (deceased 1991)
Rudy & Sue Doornbos — Richmond, B.C.
Courtenay
Open house will be held on Saturday, April 27, 1996, from 2-4 p.m., at the Lincoln Centre, Central Avenue, Beamsville, Ont.
Best wishes only please.
Home address: 4267 William St., Beamsville, ON L0R 1B0

Anniversaries

Congratulations to Rein and Grietje Bakker (nee Bruinsma) on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary!

Arum Guelph
1946 May 1 1996
Hallelujah! Praise God!
If it is the Lord's will, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary
of our much loved
Heit and Mem,
Pake and Beppe,
REIN and GRIETJE BAKKER
(nee BRUINSMA)
Psalm 63: 7,8
"Because You are my help, I sing in the shadow of Your wings.
I stay close to You; Your right hand upholds me"
is a testament of their faith.
For all your patient care; For every anguished prayer;
For every gentle look; For every step you took:
For every anxious night; For every kindly light;
For tact with awkward ways; For love on wayward days;
For hope when there was none; For faith when hope was done;
For all you ever thought; For all you ever wrought;
Today, and now, and here, we thank you parents dear.
Love and deepest respect,
Lucy & Bernie Hengeveld — Ryan, Diana, Martin
Sipke (Sept. 1948-Jan. 1949)
Janey & Rob Davis — Michael, Jennifer
Willi & Wim Vander Woude — Kirt, Rebecca
Mary Ann & George Vander Gaast — Sarah, Shelly, Kevin
Alice & Mark Kuiper — Karina, ShariAnn, Carolyn, Zachary
Sid Bakker
Address: 208 Waverley Drive, Guelph, ON N1E 1H4

1936 May 6 1996
With thanks to God, we announce the 60th wedding anniversary of our parents
BILL and ROELI BREEMHAAR
(nee JANSSENS)
Their children,
Roeli Klaas — Ruthven, Ont.
Fenny & Henry Spitse — Buckhorn, Ont.
Bill & Mary Breemhaar — Amherstburg, Ont.
Joan Breemhaar — Chatham, Ont.
Peter & Jan Breemhaar — Norval, Ont.
11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.
Open house on May 4, 1996, at Essex Chr. Ref. Church, from 2-4 p.m.
Home address: 148 Lansdowne Ave., Apt. 202, Kingsville, ON N9Y 3Y4

1951 April 12 1996
With love to our parents and grandparents
CLARENCE and JENNY DIJKSTRA
as they celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary. May the Lord continue to bless them.
Cor & Grace Dykstra
Laura & Brian, Kim, Jamie
Gordon & Evelyn Dykstra
Sheila, Mark, Allan, Sarah
Jim & Maryke Dykstra
Kevin, Steven, David
Anita & Richard Smit
Gerald, Nicholas, Jennifer
Ralph & Kathryn Dykstra
Erin
Address: Box 544, North Gower, ON K0A 2T0

Anniversaries

1956 May 11 1996
With thanks to God we announce the 40th wedding anniversary of our parents
JAN and NEL OTTEVANGERS
(nee VADER)
"Trust in the Lord will all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Prov. 3: 5-6).
Dirk & Yvonne Ottevangers
Jennifer
Joyce & Al Nywening
Danielle, Mark, Sarah
Andrew & Marion Ottevangers
Janis, Lisa, Michelle
Angela & David Vellekoop
Andrew, Emily, Peter
We invite you to come and celebrate with us at an open house on Saturday, May 11, 1996, from 2-4 p.m., at Rehoboth Fellowship Chr. Ref. Church, 800 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke, Ont.

Burnaby, B.C. Surrey, B.C.
May 5
ANTONIE ALBERTUS
and
JACOBA ADRIANA
VAN DER HEIDE
(nee TANIS)
With joy and thankfulness to the Lord for His faithfulness, we, with our daughter Karin, are happy to announce our 25th wedding anniversary. May God continue to surround us with His care.
Address: 14086-102a Avenue, Surrey, BC V3T 1P9

Utrecht Hamilton
the Neth. Ont.
1946 April 4 1996
"En zij zullen zingen van de wegen des Heeren; want the heerlijkheid des Heeren is groot" (Psalm 138:5).
OEGE and ADRIE BOUMA
(nee VANDERKUIJLEN)
On April 4, 1996, we celebrated our parents' 50th anniversary. This event will again be celebrated with a family reunion this summer, D.V., in Salmon Arm, B.C.
Mom and Dad, the Lord has greatly blessed you during 50 years of marriage. There were times that it may have been difficult to sing the ways of the Lord, but you held on to God's promises and placed your trust in Him. We as your children and grandchildren are truly thankful for your passing on the faith.
Elaine & Leo Smit — Langley, B.C.
Kristin & Rick, Len, Danielle, Matthew
Tony & Ann Bouma — Calgary, Alta.
Peter, Brian, Diana, Jaclyn, Monique
Okke Bouma — deceased
Arie & Grace Bouma — Hamilton, Ont.
Natalie, Simon
Address: 77 West 1st Street, Hamilton, ON L9C 3C5

Classifieds

Anniversaries

1956 1996

ALBERT and NELLIE VANDERHORST (nee GROOT)

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We wish to give thanks to the Lord for our parents' 40th anniversary.

Liz & Ed Garlick — Brampton, Ont.
Chris, Aaron, Matthew, Rebecca
Diny & Howard Kennedy — Meadowlake, Sask.
Hilary, Lindsay, Tiffany, Aaron
Velma & Jim Connolly — Barrie, Ont.
Kristen, Michael
John & Terry Vanderhorst — Barrie, Ont.
Charlene & Harry Vegter — Barrie, Ont.
Arianna & Tyson
Jeanette & Harry Binstock — Barrie, Ont.
Lauren, Braden
Tim & Amanda Vanderhorst — Minesing, Ont.
Avery

Open house at 89 Letitia St., Barrie, Ont., on May 4, 1996, from 2 till 4 p.m.

1956 1996

Our God is an awesome God.

With thanks to God, we celebrate with joy our parents' 40th wedding anniversary on May 4, 1996.

JACOB and ANNIE VANDERMEULEN (nee COLYN)

With love from your children and grandchildren:

Earl & Sharon Vander Meulen — Stirling, Ont.
Jennifer, Diana
Christine & Luke Smit — Wainfleet, Ont.
Natalie, Ryan, Robyn, Chad
Evelyn & Sid Tilstra — Dunnville, Ont.
Alicia, Matthew, Benjamin
Marlene & Jerry VanHolst — Frankford, Ont.
Michael, Tyler, Danielle
Elizabeth & Don Muldoon — Belleville, Ont.
Jacqueline & Michael Niemann — Rockwood, Ont.
Nikita, Michael, Natasha
Andrew Vander Meulen — Rockwood, Ont.

Open house will be held on May 4, 1996, from 3-4:30 p.m., at the Frankford Chr. Ref. Church, Frankford, Ont.

Best wishes only.

Home address: R.R. #2, Stirling, ON K0K 3E0

You'll find another Anniversary Announcement on page 17...

Anniversaries

1956 April 16 1996

The children, grandchildren and great-grandchild of

MARTEN and GRACE VAN ROOYEN

have the opportunity to thank the Lord for the gift of our parents as they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

With love from:

Derrick Van Rooyen — Kitchener, Ont.
Elizabeth, Tom & Lisa (Joshua), Melissa
& friend Shirley Moore — Cambridge, Ont.
Matt, Mark
John & Diane Van Rooyen — Tecumseh, Ont.
Darren, Joel, Laura, Stephen
Annette & Pete McGregor — Ailsa Craig, Ont.
Martha & Wayne Hooyer — Dresden, Ont.
Matthew, Shawn, Brian, Casandra
Darlene & Mike Crow — Dresden, Ont.
Jessica, Michael Jr., Candace
Paul & Kathie Van Rooyen — Rochester Hills, Mich.
Nicole, Brian

Open house will be held at Forest Chr. Ref. Church on Saturday, April 20, 1996, from 2-4 p.m., Highway 21 North, Forest, Ont.

Address: Box 309, 22 Main St. S., Forest, ON N0N 1J0

Obituaries

Heerlen Terrace
Limburg, the Neth. B.C.

IN LOVING MEMORY

On Feb. 16, 1996, our mother and grandmother

MARGJE CLAUS (nee TROELSTRA)

passed into the Lord's presence.

On March 14, 1996, our father and grandfather

HENDRIK (HENRY) CLAUS

was also taken from us to his eternal home.

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God" (1 John 3:1).

Funeral services were held at the Terrace Chr. Ref. Church on Feb. 20, 1996, and March 16, 1996.

Survived by:

Bob & Anne Venema — Terrace, B.C.
Allen & Margriet Notenbomer — Leduc, Alta.
Charles & Ann Claus — Campbell River, B.C.
John & Joanne Paul — Agassiz, B.C.
and 13 grandchildren.

Our sincere thanks to so many who helped and remembered us in our time of need. We are comforted and encouraged by God's grace and by all the kindness you have shown.

Correspondence address: Bob and Ann Venema, 4916 Davis Ave., Terrace, BC V8G 1Y5

Obituaries

God in his infinite mercy took unto Himself our dear father, grandfather, brother and uncle

CASEY ANTONIDES

who passed away after a long illness at the age of 61, on Wednesday, March 20, 1996.

Lovingly remembered by his children and grandchildren:

Jonathan & Maurie — Texas
Sydney, Chelsea, Alexandra, Max
Philip — London
Jane & Terry — Sarnia
Mark

and brothers and sisters:

Stan & Dorothy — Oakville
Harry & Janet — Willowdale
Theresa — Toronto
George & Jeanette — Putnam
Pauline & Case — Ingersoll
Margaret — Toronto
Inez & Robert — Dorchester
Jayne — Toronto

The funeral service was held on March 25, 1996, in the First Chr. Ref. Church of Sarnia, Ont., with Pastor Brian Robinson officiating.

"A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out" (Matt.12:20).

Correspondence address: 841 Errol Rd. E., Sarnia, ON N7V 2G8

Gasselte Chatham
Nov. 5, 1905 - Apr. 9, 1996

After a long and healthy life, the Lord called home our dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather

BEREND (BERT) BROUWER

Loving husband of Henny Brouwer-Leffers for almost 64 years. Predeceased by daughter Jannie in 1954.

Dear father of:

Harry & Helen Brouwer — Thamesville
Ann & Jim Dieleman — Thamesville
Jim & Teny Brouwer — Chatham
Joanne & Harry De Vries — Dresden
Henry & Jane Brouwer — Hamilton
John & Cathy Brouwer — Kitchener
Rhea & Jake Van Breda — Belleville

32 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

"He who believes in me will live, even though he dies" (John 11:25).

The funeral was held April 11, 1996, at First Chr. Ref. Church in Chatham, Ont., Rev. Sid Sybenga officiating.

Correspondence address: Mrs. Henny Brouwer, Residence on the Thames, 850 Grand Ave., Chatham, ON N7L 5H5

For Rent

APARTMENTS: Redeemer College rents furnished 1-, 2-, and 4-bedroom apartments **May to August.** Enjoy our pastoral setting while visiting the **Hamilton/Niagara/Toronto** region. For excellent daily, weekly and monthly rates, and for reservations, phone **(905) 648-2131, ext. 260.**

Obituaries

"I love the Lord, the fount of life and grace" (Ps. 116).

In His infinite wisdom the Lord called to Himself, His child,

JOHANNES (JOHN) COLYN

of Shalom Manor, Grimsby, Ont., in his 91st year.

Beloved husband for 65 years of Christina Colyn (Scherff).

Dear father of:

William & Margaret Colyn — Wellandport
Annie & Jacob Vander Meulen — Stirling
Allard & Imie Colyn — Smithville
Joanne & Jerry Hertner — Aylmer
John & Mary Colyn — Vineland
Gerda & Andy Vander Kloet — St. Catharines

Predeceased by one brother Alettienes, and one sister Elizabeth in the Netherlands, son-in-law Hendrik Knevel, and great-grandchild Nathan Wassenaar.

Beloved brother of Goverdina, Govert, and Bertus Colyn, Mechelina and Adrianna Van Vugt, all of the Netherlands.

Dear grandfather of 29 grandchildren, and 50 great-grandchildren. The funeral service took place at Trinity Orth. Ref. Church, St. Catharines, Ont., on Tuesday, April 2, 1996.

2 Cor. 5:1-10.

On Friday, March 22, 1996, the Lord, in His wisdom, took to be with Him in glory, our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother

PIETJE FEDDEMA (nee BOERSMA)

in her 90th year.

Beloved wife of the late Rienk Feddema.

Dear mother of:

Sjoukje Feddema — London, Ont.
John & Grace Feddema — Lynden, Wash.
Peter & Marge Feddema — Kitchener, Ont.
Grace & Ipe VanderDeen — Strathroy, Ont.
Jack & Ann Feddema — Strathroy, Ont.
Ann & Jan Jelle Berg — Guelph, Ont.
Jane & Ed Ryken — Sherwood Park, Alta.
Rienk & Anne Feddema — London, Ont.

Also survived by 30 grandchildren and 60 great-grandchildren, and four sisters: Syke Feddema, Brampton, Ont., Anna Haverkamp, Ietje Vlasma, and Zus Boersma, all from Dokkum, the Netherlands.

The funeral service was held on March 25, 1996, at Westmount Chr. Ref. Church, Strathroy, Ont., Pastor Jack Van de Hoef and Pastor Tony VandenEnde officiating.

Job Opportunities

Help wanted: Full-time employee needed on **dairy farm** in St. George area.

Phone (519) 448-1587.

Obituaries

Dedemsvaart, Ov. Waterloo, Ont.
1929 - 1996

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.

AALTINA HAKKERS (nee STRYKER)

suddenly passed away on March 31, 1996, at the age of 66.

Loving wife of Bert Hakkers.

Dear mother and Oma of:

Hilda & Doug Gilders
David, Jackie, Steve
John & Marg Hakkers
Ian, Stacey, Jason
Gerald & Nancy Hakkers
Jud, Jesse
Betty & Ron Bender
Matthew, Kyle, Melena
Grace & Dale Kropf
Aaron, Anita
Jim & Karen Hakkers
Bryan, Corey
Charlie & Charlene Hakkers
Brandon, Shelby
Jo-Ann & Kim Broda
Hunter

Great-oma of Kaitlin and Chantal.

Correspondence address: 479 Thorndale Dr., Waterloo, ON N2T 1J6

Feb. 12, 1922 - March 29, 1996

On Friday, March 29, 1996, the Lord called home his child, our wife, mother and Oma,

ANNA KAPTEYN (VAN DER KRAAN)

She will be lovingly remembered by: her husband of nearly 50 years, John Kapteyn

her children and grandchildren:

Mary & Rene Schoenmaker — Gilford, Ont.
Michelle & Sid (fiance), Dennis, Jennifer & Curtis (fiance)
Cor & Ricki Kapteyn — Phelpston, Ont.
John & Tammy (fiancee), Corinna, David
Nellie & Ed Eisses — Stroud, Ont.
Christine, Michael, Darren
Paul & Kathy Kapteyn — Stroud, Ont.
Aleasha, Lorra
Betty-Ann & Michael Boss — Grand Rapids, Mich.
Anna-Marie, Deena
Peter & Michele Kapteyn — Phelpston, Ont.
Nathaniel, Nicole, Kelsey

Funeral was held on Monday, April 1, 1996, at the First Chr. Ref. Church of Barrie, Ont., led by Pastor J. Vos and Pastor J. Luth.

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Correspondence address: R.R. #2, Phelpston, ON L0L 2K0

Job Opportunities

Herdsman/manager wanted. 44 tie stall barn. Some field work necessary.

Call (613) 398-6956

Classifieds

Obituaries

After a courageous battle with cancer, the Lord took home to be with Him our husband, father and Opa,

FOLKERT FRANK SMEDING

early in his 62nd year, on March 17, 1996.
Husband of Harma Smeding.
Father and Opa of:
Audrey & Kees Poppe — Dresden
Preston, Nolan
Thea & Larry Wilkey — Emrale
Doug, Candice, Greg
Marion Smeding-Ladaer — Kitchener
Ron & Lynne Smeding — Belleville
Rachael, Allyssa, Tyler, Curtis
Frank & Helen Smeding — Kitchener
Gerry & Rosalind Smeding — Kitchener
Correspondence address:
363 Argyle Ave. North, Listowel, ON N4W 1N2

On March 25, 1996, God called home at the age of 95 years, our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

TEUNTJE ALIDA VAN DER KOOY (nee KLAPWIJK)

Beloved wife of the late Gerrit (George) Van der Kooy.
Predeceased by her daughters:
Greetje Van der Kooy
Sara Van Arragon
Margaret Brouwer
Dear mother of:
Harry & Leni Vanderkooy
Jack & Jane Verboon
Dick Vanderkooy
John & Judith Vanderkooy
Tony & Audrey Vanderkooy
Also survived by:
John & Hennie Van Arragon
Eleanor Brouwer
Several sisters in the Netherlands.
Many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
The funeral service was held on March 28, 1996, at Mountainview Chr. Ref. Church, Grimsby, Ont., Pastor Peter DeBruyne officiated.
Correspondence address: Jane Verboon, 509 Southcote Rd., Ancaster, ON L9G 2W4

"The Lord is our refuge and our strength" (Ps.46).
On Monday, March 11, 1996,

JOHANNES (JOHN) VOOYS

of Tyrone, Ont., passed away at age 38, after a courageous battle with cancer. The Lord took him home to be with Him.
Beloved husband of Pat Woodley-Vooys.
Dear son of Dick and Annie Vooys.
Dear father of Peter (12) and David (7).
Brother of Tineke and Martin Demmers and Lydia and Tim Bryan.
Uncle of Thea, Basja, Tricia, Kara and Olivia.
The funeral service was held at Bowmanville, Ont., on March 14, 1996.
Correspondence address: Dick and Annie Vooys, 2304 Trull's Rd. S., Courtice, ON L1E 2N2

Obituaries

Anjum, Fr. Brampton, Ont.
Sept. 27, 1908 - March 18, 1996
"The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day" (Prov.4:18).

ELIZABETH (EBELTJE) WAGENAAR (nee CUPERUS)

went to be with her Lord, and Savior, at the age of 87.
Gratefully remembered by her loving children:
Joan & Pete VanElburg — Brampton, Ont.
Marian & Clarence Burghgraef — Georgetown, Ont.
Chris & Christina Wagenaar — Maple Ridge, B.C.
Elsie & Jim Zeilstra — Pitt Meadows, B.C.
Sally & Mac Mc Donald — Hamiota, Man.
Bob & Diane Wagenaar — Kenora, Ont.
Martha Delorme — deceased July 17, 1991
Martin & Audrey Wagenaar — Kenora, Ont.
Andrew & Julia Wagenaar — Kenora, Ont.
Karl & Tina Wagenaar — Winnipeg, Man.
36 grandchildren and 43 great-grandchildren.
Place of interment, Greenwood Cemetery, Orangeville, Ont.
Correspondence address: Mrs. Marian Burghgraef, 23 Market St., Georgetown, ON L7G 3B9

Teachers

BELLEVILLE, Ont.: Belleville District Chr. School, in beautiful Eastern Ontario is inviting applications for a **full-time teaching position** in **Grade 7/8** and a **.4 Grade 5/6 principal's relief position**. OTC or an equivalent certificate is required and CSTC is preferred. Ability to teach French would be a asset. Please send applications and resume to:

Peter Shurrock, Principal
Belleville District Chr. School
R.R. #5
Belleville, ON K8N 4Z5
Phone: (613) 962-7849

BOWMANVILLE, Ont.: Knox Chr. School invites applications for a **Grade 6** teaching position for the 1996-97 school year. If you would like to become part of an exciting, growing school (project enrollment - nearly 300) in a modern, well-equipped facility within a park-like semi-rural setting, forward your letter of application and resume to the principal:

Bill Helmus
Knox Chr. School
410 Scugog St.
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K2
Phone: (905) 623-5871
Fax: (905) 623-8877

Teachers

BARRIE, Ont.: Timothy Chr. School invites applications for an Oct. 1996-June 1997 maternity leave position in the senior grades or possibly a primary grade. Please send letter of application and resume to:

Mrs. Jane Tjeerdsma, Principal
Timothy Chr. School
49 Ferris Lane
Barrie, ON L4M 2Y1
Phone: (705) 726-6621.

CHATHAM, Ont.: Chatham Chr. High School an interdenominational school from grades 8 to OAC, invites applications for a **part-time P.E. teacher**, and a **French teacher**, for Sept. 1996. The French position is for one semester only. Please send resume to:

Bruce Mitchell
Chatham Chr. High School
90 Park Avenue East
Chatham, ON N7M 3V4
(519) 352-4591.

FAIRVIEW, Alta.: Fairview Chr. School requires a **full-time experienced teacher** to take on the challenge of a multi-grade classroom. At present enrolment is under 20, representing grades 1 to 9. Please call or fax resume to:

Wendall Mullet
(403) 835-5019 or
Marlene Eastman at
Box 124, Brownvale, AB T0H 1L0
Phone or fax:
(403) 835-2193
Deadline is April 30, 1996.

Share your family news in 1996 with the rest of us. Place an ad in C.C.

LACOMBE, Alta.: Lacombe Chr. School, situated in the town of Lacombe in central Alberta and serving 350 students in K-9, invites applications for a **Jr. High (7-9) Math/Computer teacher** for the 1996-97 school year. **Possible openings** are also anticipated in the **elementary (1-6) grades.** Please send applications and inquiries to:

John Piers, Principal
Lacombe Chr. School
5206-58 Street
Lacombe, AB T4L 1G9
Phone: (403) 782-6531
Fax: (403) 782-5760

Teachers

SMITHERS, B.C.: Bulkley Valley Chr. Elementary School is in need of **3 teachers** commencing in September 1996. One position will be **half-time in Kindergarten**, one will be **full-time in a combined Grade 1 and 2** and one will be approximately **half-time in the intermediate grades**. Some music qualifications would be a definite advantage to our school. Please send applications and resumes to:

Glenn Ewald, Associate Principal
Box 2117
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Phone: (604) 847-9833
Fax: (604) 847-3564

ST. CATHARINES, Ont.: Beacon Chr. High School invites applications for a **definite opening** for **science and French** for the 1996-97 school year. The science candidate should have a strong biology and chemistry background. Send resume and statement of educational philosophy to:

Ted Harris, Principal
Beacon Chr. High School
2 O'Malley Dr.
St. Catharines, ON L2N 6N7
Fax: (905) 937-1130.

ST. THOMAS, Ont.: Ebenezer Chr. School is accepting applications for the junior division for the 1996/97 school year. Please forward your resume and application to:

Tony DeKoter, Principal
Ebenezer Chr.School
77 Fairview Ave.
St. Thomas, ON N5R 4X7

VANCOUVER, B.C.: Vancouver Chr. School, a denominationally diverse community which offers Kindergarten through Grade 10, has **potential openings** for a **full- or part-time French teacher**, a **part-time music teacher** and a **full-time opening** at the **primary level.** Please send your resume to:

Ron Donkersloot, Principal
Vancouver Chr. School
3496 Mons Drive
Vancouver, BC V5M 3E6
No applications by fax, please.

For Rent

For rent: self-contained vacation unit, off the beaten path between Ottawa and Upper Canada Village in **Morrisburg**, Ont. Room for R.V.s and tents. Tel. **(613) 984-2990.**

Lakefront cottage for rent. Two-bedroom cottage facing Gull Lake. Clean. Large deck. Pull out couch. Sleeps six. Boatdock and sundeck. Rent by week, month or season. **Call (905) 646-9346** till May 1, or call or fax (same #) after May 1: **(705) 286-4525.**

Vacation

House (and car?) swap: Aug. 15-Sept. 26, 1996. Available: Two-bedroom house in Waterloo, Ont. Wanted: House or apartment in Holland for couple. For information, call **Adrian and Johanna Peetoom** at **(519) 884-1258.**

BERGENTHEIM
TE HUUR VOOR VAKANTIE:
Moderne gemeubileerde woning (modern furnished home) — per week of per maand — in Bergentheim, Overijssel (ongeveer 12 km van Ommen).
Voor volledige informatie bel of schrijf naar:

J. Snijders
651-4 Ave. E.
Brooks, AB T1R 0H4
Phone: (403) 362-4052 or
(403) 362-2653

Events

Fryske Youn
up **3 maye, 1996**
yn' Chr. Skoalle
1273 Exmouth Street
Sarnia, Ontario

Personal

ONE TO ANOTHER
Christian companion magazine. Hundreds of readers Canada-wide. Single issue $5.
Write to:
#302, 1502-2nd Ave. S.
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4A2

DCA Travel — Holland Travel Professional
Toronto 416-224-5211
Toll-Free (Canada wide)
1-800-667-2525
Fax 416-224-0842
Grimsby 905-945-3301
Burlington 905-522-8602
Emergency Service Available
Business & Vacation Travel

ADA REALTY LTD.
2011-137 Ave., Suite 404
Edmonton, AB
T5A 4W2
(403) 473-8149
Sid Vandermeulen
Contact us first when you think of moving to Edmonton and district.
Het vertrouwde adres.

Classifieds

Job Opportunities

International Executive Director

Christian Reformed World Missions

Christian Reformed World Missions, an agency of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, is continuing its search for an **International Executive Director**. This position is responsible for the administration of the agency, including all of its overseas missions.

The successful candidate shall be capable of providing visionary leadership and have demonstrated experience and training in missiology, theology, and organizational management. A working knowledge of and membership in the Christian Reformed Church is required. A detailed position description is available upon request.

Nominations are welcome and must be submitted by **June 1, 1996.** Applications are also solicited and must be received no later than **July 15, 1996** (please include a resume and letter stating your interest). Please submit both nominations and applications to:

Rev. Leonard P. Troast, Search Committee Secretary
Calvin Christian Reformed Church
973 West Norton, Muskegon, MI 49441
Telephone: (616) 737-5207

Business Administrator

Edmonton Society for Christian Education
Edmonton, Alberta

Edmonton Society for Christian Education, invites applications for a **Business Administrator.** The successful candidate will assume most of the duties currently performed by the Business Manager. Primary responsibilities are: preparation of budgets, re-estimates and periodic financial statements, maintaining and enhancing accounting and computer systems, managing the finances of the society and managing maintenance and renovation projects.

We are looking for a candidate who will complement our staff and has at least a few years of formal training and practical experience in accounting, finance, computers and facilities maintenance. We expect applicants to affirm the mission statement of our society.

Salary is negotiable and will relate to qualifications and experience.

Please mail or fax your resume **before May 10, 1996**, to:
H.W. Verveda, Business Manager
Edmonton Society for Christian Education
13470 Fort Road, Edmonton, AB T5A 1C5
Fax (403) 478-1728

Ordained Person

First Christian Reformed Church, London, Ont., an established downtown church in a university setting has an opening for an ordained person to fill a staff ministry of 2nd pastor. Key to this position is a dynamic preaching of God's Word, exciting worship and the sharing of the gospel in active outreach. The focus of this position is geared to our outreach ministry which we have called *Saturday Night Alive*, a ministry using music and drama to reach those who have wandered from their faith. Pastoral care of the above group (25-39 age bracket) will be a prime responsibility.

Please send inquiries and/or resumes by fax to: **Search Committee, c/o Marlene Regnerus, (519) 455-4364.**

Job Opportunities

EDUCATION/ADMINISTRATION CO-ORDINATOR

1 to Z Data Processing Services Inc. is a leading computer training provider primarily in IBM AS/400 with plans to expand its curriculum to include micro computer applications and communication courses.

We have an opening for an **Education/Administration Co-ordinator.** This is a high-profile position responsible for co-ordinating and performing all administrative duties, including liaison with corporate customers and government authorities.

The successful candidate will be a highly organized individual able to work with minimum supervision. Relevant education and/or experience in the adult learning environment in a Senior Administrative role with excellent computer skills and proficiency in Microsoft office programs, particularly Word and Maximizer, is a definite asset.

We offer an attractive salary commensurate with experience. Interested candidates should forward their resumes in confidence to:

Attention: Tony Singarajah
1 to Z Data Processing Services Inc.
6465 Millcreek Dr., Unit #180
Mississauga, ON L5N 5R3
Tel.: (905) 858-2854, Fax: (905) 858-2164

DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Christian Reformed World Missions-Canada
(CRWM-Canada)

The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) is seeking applicants for the (initially 2-year contract) position of **Development Co-ordinator** for World Missions-Canada. The qualified individual needs to be a creative, energetic self-starter with management, organizational and interpersonal skills in the area of donor development. Responsibilities include strategic planning and development in response to the donor needs of World Missions-Canada. The individual will work closely with World Missions and other CRC agency staff, regional representatives, pastors/councils, and the local representative network in the Canada CRCs.

A college degree with three to four years' demonstrated experience in donor development in a non-profit setting, or marketing/sales experience in a for-profit environment, is preferred; location in Western Canada preferred; membership in the CRC is expected. This position involves considerable travel.

A detailed job description is available upon request. For consideration, please submit a resume and cover letter stating your interest by **May 1, 1996.**

Director of Personnel
Christian Reformed Church in North America
P.O. Box 5070, 3475 Mainway
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8
(905) 336-2920/Fax: (905) 336-8344

Vacations

GOING TO HOLLAND FOR VACATION?
Why not rent a VACATION APARTMENT
and visit family and sight-see at your leisure.
CENTRALLY LOCATED near APELDOORN.
year-round accommodations.
FOR BROCHURE OR MORE INFORMATION CALL
Harold or Nellie at
(905) 985-7891 or fax us at (905) 985-0195.

Anniversaries

1951 April 26 1996

"May He send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion" (Ps. 20:2).

It is with great joy and thankfulness to God that we announce the 45th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

JOE and MARTHA BOUMA
(nee VAN ABBEMA)

Congratulations and love from:
Richard & Trudy Bouma
Jodie, Joel, Erica
Helen & Gord Haan
Jennette, Lori-Anne, Joshua, Danielle
Tilda & Ralph Aardema
Lisa, Sarah
John & Lilian Bouma
Jeffrey, Mark, Rachel
Agnes & Bert Zwart
Joseph, Richard, Robert
Stan & Renee Bouma
Stephanie, Matthew

We invite you to celebrate with us at an open house on April 27, 1996, from 2-4 p.m., at Maranatha Chr. Ref. Church, 2805 Hwy. #2 East, Bowmanville, ON L1C 4V4.
Home address: 2916 Concession Rd. #3, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K5

Personal

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE NETHERLANDS:

DARLING, Patricia S., born April 19, 1951.

DEDDEN, Hilbert, born October 13, 1954.

van DONGEN, Theodorus P.M., born January 19, 1959 and
BASSA, Klazina M., born January 19, 1966, emigrated to Canada February 13, 1995.

DONKER, John, former member of the Rameses Pipe Band, North York.

continued on page 18...

Classifieds

Job Opportunities

FULL-TIME RECEPTIONIST/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The OACS requires a **full-time receptionist/administrative assistant**, starting **July 2, 1996**. The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- commitment to the Christian school movement
- organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills
- excellent keyboarding skills
- advanced software knowledge and expertise in word processing

Self-motivated, qualified candidates are invited to submit a letter of application and a resume by **April 30, 1996,** to:

Ena Mostert, Executive Assistant
Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools
617 Highway #53 East, Ancaster, ON L9G 3K9
Tel.: (905) 648-2100

Administrative Co-ordinator

The Board of **Beginnings Counselling & Adoption Services of Ontario, Inc.**, invites applications for the position of **Administrative Co-ordinator** to fill a vacancy due to a six months parenting leave (commencing July). This **half-time position** is 15 hours per week. It may focus on fundraising and managing current programs. Applications can be sent to the **Personnel Committee, Beginnings, 1 Young Street, Suite 308, Hamilton, ON L8N 1T8. Phone (905) 528-6665; Fax (905) 528-6589.**

Application deadline is ***May 15, 1996.***

Worship Director

Burnaby Christian Reformed Church, an evangelical congregation with a reformed tradition, using a blend of contemporary and traditional worship styles, seeks a **half-time worship director** to develop and give leadership to the worship ministry of our church. The successful candidate must be an accomplished musician with good organizational and teaching skills. Please send letters of interest by **May 1, 1996**, to: **Worship Committee, Burnaby CRC, 5825 Nelson Ave., Burnaby, BC V5H 3H6**

Real Estate

Ottawa, Nepean Kanata

Sisco Reitsma
Registered Relocation Specialist

RE/MAX Metro City Realty
2255 Carling Ave.
Ottawa, ON K2B 7Z5

(613) 596-5353 or (613) 596-1238

Miscellaneous

Best Bed & Breakfast

- Clean rooms • Good homecooked food
- Traditional Dutch hospitality
- Specializing in 4-7 days stays for the elderly or those without transportation
- We arrange a super vacation with daytrips to attractions and sightseeing tours

YOUR HOSTS, HANK AND EVA KRUYF
261 Nottawasaga St., Orillia, ON L3V 3K5, (705) 326-4274

Bethesda Christian Homes
Woodbridge, Ontario

A 39 two- and one-bedroom Senior Apartment Complex, with a separate Care Wing of 60 bed-sitting units, has recently been approved by the Ontario Municipal Board. Construction is expected to start soon. Bethesda is located on a beautiful ravine on a branch of the Humber River, next to the Maranatha CRC. Applications of suitable tenants are now invited. There are still a few openings. If you are interested in a Rental Unit or in a Life-Lease Unit, please contact us as soon as possible. Now is your chance! Contact the office:

Andy Mast, 38 Haslemere Ave., Brampton, ON L6W 2X4 or phone/fax (905) 459-2111.

July 8-26, 1996

SUMMER SCHOOL

at Wycliffe College and the Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto

"...bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. **Colossians 1:10**

Performing God's praise: Drama, theatre and music in Christian perspective

Matthew's story of Jesus

Issues in Christian psychotherapy

Eschatology

Women in the Bible

For a brochure and registration details please write
Chris Barrigar:
5 Hoskin Ave.
Toronto, Ont.
M5S 1H7
Phone:
(416) 979-2870
Fax:
(416) 979-0471

Personal

... continued from page 17

van DIJK/van de(r) HOEVEN, Fija, born April 7, 1958.

van DIJK, Miriam Adriana Immaculata, born February 10, 1958.

ELICH, Jacobus Johannes, born February 28, 1931, emigrated to Canada October 21, 1957.

van EEUWIJK, Remco A.F., born May 11, 1970, last known address in Canada: Edmonton, Alberta.

FENNEMA-van der DUSSEN, Mrs. F.A., born April 3, 1960.

GEHLMANN/MEYER, Inge, daughter of Willy Otto Gehlmann/Meyer, born June 27, 1896 in Neustadt, Germany.

de GROOT, Peter Theodoor Eric Olando, born February 17, 1955.

HAMSTRA, Aart, born June 3, 1948 in Ermelo, emigrated to Canada: January 4, 1983, last known address: 3 Briarwood Court, Midhurst, Ontario.

van der HEIJDEN, Joseph Matthias, born September 20, 1927 in Wageningen, last known address in Canada: Toronto, Ontario.

HOEKSTRA, Pieter, born April 23, 1931, last known address in the Netherlands: Hommersweg 47, Hoensbroek, emigrated to Canada August 14, 1956.

HUISMAN, Jacobus Johannes, born June 30, 1931, last known address in the Netherlands: Nieuwstraat 122, Groningen, emigrated to Canada August 21, 1967.

van HULLENAAR, Fredericus Antonius, born August 17, 1931, last known address in the Netherlands: Nw. Nonnendaalseweg 48, Nijmegen, emigrated to Canada May 6, 1969.

INDEN, Paulus Willibrordus Adrianus Maria, born November 28, 1967.

JELLEMA, Evertje, born February 23, 1928 in Indramajoe, Indonesia.

van der KLEY, Emma C., born October 3, 1967.

KLOOTS, Hendrik Willem, born November 11, 1929 in Semarang.

MARTINA, Rudsel M., born August 30, 1968, emigrated to Canada April 4, 1995.

NIEUWLAND, Oebele G., born December 16, 1966.

OUWENDYK- de KONING, Mrs. G., born February 9, 1961, last known address in the Netherlands: Willem 3 Straat 15, Maasdijk, emigrated to Canada September 1, 1995.

KOTTERS, Rudolf, born February 12, 1929 in Semarang.

KUIPER, Adrianus, born July 27, 1930 in Monster.

KUIPER, Danielle D., born October 21, 1966.

KUP(Küp), Anna Mathilde, born July 25, 1920 in Curacao, emigrated to Canada October 28, 1947.

LABOYRIE, Alphonse Adrien Abraham, born March 16, 1896 in The Hague, emigrated to Canada in 1930.

continued on page 19...

Classifieds/Events

Miscellaneous

Salem Christian Mental Health Association

is planning to develop part of its property adjacent to Holland Christian Homes in Brampton, as a residential Christian community for mature adults 55 years and over.

The new development **"King's Terrace"** will consist of a 5-6 storey apartment residence with 75-85 units available on a Life-Lease basis. These 1-, 2-, or 3-bedroom units are in the $105,000 - $155,000 price range and offer an attractive alternative to rental or condominium living.

Anyone interested in this type of accommodation is invited to call for a complete information package on this exciting development.

Please come to our **"Open House"** on **May 11, 1996**, from **2:00-5:00 p.m.**, at the **Second Christian Reformed Church, 444 Steeles Avenue West, Brampton, Ont.**

For more information or to register for attending the "Open House," please call:
Rev. Albert Dreise, Hamilton, at (905) 528-0353 or
Joel Rieder, M.Arch., Brampton, at (905) 457-1618.

May 10 - 12

At the King's Table

A weekend conference for persons with a disability and their caregivers. The concert is part of the conference which includes:

Friday Evening
Joni Eareckson Tada, a quadriplegic since 1967, will share her experiences of learning to live with a disability.

Saturday Program:
21 workshops have been planned for Saturday. The topics are geared for all officebearers, caregivers and persons with disabilities in the church.

Cost: Saturday only - $40 ($50- includes concert)

Hear Joni in Concert

Saturday, May 11

Concert of Praise

A concert evening featuring
- **Joni and music groups**
- **Colleen & Grace and**
- **DBS & Interregnum.**

Location:
The Athletic Complex
Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo
Doors open at 7:00 p.m.
Concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday worship:
Rev. Jim VanderLaan will give the message. Jim is the director of the committee on Disability Concerns of the Christian Reformed Church.

For more information about the conference write:

At the King's Table
Eastern Canada
Disability Conference
c/o Nancy Exel Lammers
3475 Mainway, PO Box 5070
Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Y8

Cost: $125/person - includes accomodations

Concert tickets: Family-$25.00, Single-$8.00, Students (under 16)- $5.00, available at the following locations:

Carpenter's Shop Waterloo 1(519) 885-4500	Carpenter's Shop Stratford 1(519) 271-9102	Family Christian Book Store Burlington Phone 1(905) 637-9151
The Hidden Treasure Cambridge 1(519) 653-0214	The Christian Book Store Hamilton Phone1(905) 387-2377	Mitchell Family Books St. Catharines Phone 1(905) 646-1550

Sponsored by The Eastern Canada Disability Conference of The Christian Reformed Church

Miscellaneous

Retire On Vancouver Island

Evening's Ease Court

A 36 Unit, Christian Senior Housing Development, consisting of spacious bungalows and duplexes. Enjoy the company of fellow Christians and live in an architectually designed home.

..... *Second Phase Homes Now Selling*

- located in Duncan and the beautiful Cowichan Valley
- many opportunities for recreation in surrounding area
- within walking distance of churches and stores
- 52 km. scenic drive north of Victoria
- ideal mild year-round weather
- bus service available
- recreational facility
- future care home

For more information contact:
Mr. L. Bakker **(604)748-2270,** *Mrs. C. Atsma* **(604)748-1257,**
Mr. P. de Vries **(604)748-6745**

Come and learn where Christ is still Tortured

25th Anniversary of

The Voice of the Martyrs

Founded by Pastor Richard & Mrs. Sabina Wurmbrand

Banquet & Conference

Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, 1996

at

Ontario Bible College

☐ **I am interested to attend the Banquet and the Conference. Please send more information to:**

Name: _____

Street, R.R, P.O.: _____

City: _____ **Prov:** _____ **PC:** _____

Send form, Fax or Call: VOM, Box 117, Port Credit, MISSISSAUGA, ON L5G 4L5
Phone: 905-276-6210 — Fax: 905-276-0228

C.C

Personal

...continued from page 18

LAGEVEEN, Wopke, born August 22, 1930 in Wieringerwaard.

LANGENDIJK, Mrs. A.A.M., born June 24, 1961, last known address in the Netherlands: Hanzelaan 152, Kampen.

LI, Sum Kin, born January 13, 1955, emigrated to Canada August 18, 1992.

LIGTENBERG, Maartje M., born August 15, 1969.

LYNER, Nathalie Suzanne, born May 19, 1969.

MAGERMANS, Martinus Christianus, born September 5, 1930, emigrated to Canada April 18, 1957.

van MELSEN, Jan Willem, born February 23, 1931, emigrated to Canada March 29, 1957.

v.d. MEY, Robert E., born February 6, 1971.

MOESKER, Aafien, born February 16, 1949, last known address in Canada: Langley, B.C.

MOORKAMP, Bernardus Johannes, born November 13, 1930, last known address in the Netherlands: Horstplein 19, Hoensbroek, emigrated to Canada April 23, 1954.

MULDER, Aaltje, born May 20, 1969.

PATYNE (PATTISELANNO), Evert Johan, born August 1, 1958.

PEETERS, Lambertus J.A.M., born October 22, 1966 in Etten-Leur.

PLOEG, Johan, born January 23, 1949.

RIKKERS, Laurens Rob, born November 25, 1929 in Djatinegara.

ROMER, Anna Cornelia, born August 20, 1947, last known address in Canada: Naramata, B.C.

SADAT MOHAMMADI, Said, born July 1, 1936.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE NETHERLANDS
1 DUNDAS STREET W., SUITE 2106
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5G 1Z3
TEL. (416) 598-2520

Calendar of Events

Please submit only brief items. Placement is subject to space availability. Lengthy, multiple-event announcements will be rejected. We reserve the right to edit the material and to charge a nominal, per issue fee per item inserted.

April 20 "Christian Rainbows" special meeting with speaker Dr. John Toews. Subject: "Mental Health and the Church." At 10 a.m., Can. Ref. Church, Dynes Rd., **Burlington**, Ont. Pre-reg. required - $7. Info.: (905) 639-1075 or (519) 631-0307.

April 21 Dutch worship service with Rev. John D. Hellinga, 3 p.m., CRC, **Ancaster**, Ont.

April 26 Concert by the Redeemer College Choir, 7:30 p.m., CRC, **Jarvis**, Ont., "Music that is deeply felt and deeply understood" (Hugh Fraser in the **Hamilton Spectator**). Freewill offering for Redeemer College.

April 26 Retirement Rev. John and Gertrude De Jong; potluck supper at Covenant CS, **Smithville**, Ont.: **April 28** Farewell sermon at Smithville CRC at 2:30 p.m. Info./fax (905) 957-2202. (#)

April 27 "Ontario Christian Male Chorus Festival 1996," 7:30 p.m., Redeemer College, **Ancaster**, Ont. Don't miss this: eight Ontario male choruses participating! (#)

April 27 "Praise and Worship Concert" with Grace and Colleen (Unity Music Ministries), 7:30 p.m., Clarkson CRC, **Mississauga**, Ont. Freewill offering in support of The Lighthouse ministry. Info.: (416) 535-6262.

April 27 Organist Jonathan Oldengarm in recital, 7:30 p.m., Benton St. Baptist Church, **Kitchener**, Ont.

News

Fellowship of Merry Christians encourages humor in the church

Alan Doerksen

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — Many people consider churches and Christians to be sombre and serious. But the Fellowship of Merry Christians is working to change that stereotype and bring more humor into the church and into Christians' lives.

Cal and Rose Samra, a couple based in Kalamazoo, Mich., started the fellowship 10 years ago, and running it has now become a full-time job for them. Cal Samra explains that they started the fellowship shortly after he wrote a book called *The Joyful Christ.*

In response, he says, "We got a lot of letters saying, 'Hey, we need more joy and humor in our faith.'"

The Samras, in turn, responded by starting *The Joyful Noiseletter* in April 1986. It is a monthly newsletter with clean jokes and anecdotes with a Christian perspective. "It's mostly for pastors and [church] newsletter editors," says Samra, but the readership has been expanding and now includes many health professionals, prisoners, police officers and chaplains. "They're starving for some joy and humor," says Samra.

More than 10,000 readers now receive the "Noiseletter" (up from 200 for the first four-page issue). Readers include many Canadians, and the fellowship has a total mailing list of 45,000, says Samra. About 15 Christian cartoonists, such as Johnny Hart ("Wizard of Id" and "B.C.") and Bil Keane ("The Family Circus") contribute cartoons to the "Noiseletter."

A glimpse of God

Besides the "Noiseletter," the fellowship also produces a catalogue of books and cassettes (in a comic vein) by Christian writers such as Merrilyn Belgum, a humorist based in Minnesota, and Burt Rosenberg, a comic who is a Messianic Jew.

Samra refers to Belgum as "the world's funniest woman." In addition to writing, Belgum also performs comic Christian drama at churches and business conventions. She started performing comedy at age 60 and is now 72.

Humor is important to Christians, insists Belgum. "When you laugh, I say you get a glimpse of God," she says. "In the church, we're so serious, we've often been embarrassed to laugh."

The fellowship arranges "playshops" (as opposed to workshops) on different aspects of humor. These are "our way of reminding people that we have a joyful Messiah," says Samra. "We try to lift their spirits."

Samra has helped lead playshops in the past, and the fellowship now has a list of 35 playshop leaders and a playshop guidebook called *Holy Hilarity!* which gives guidelines on how to present a modestly priced one-day playshop.

Reprint rights granted

When someone becomes a member of the fellowship he or she will receive the "Noiseletter" along with reprint rights for anything that appears in it. Members also receive a catalogue of books and cassettes marketed by the fellowship.

COURTESY MERRILYN BELGUM

Merrilyn Belgum.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the fellowship, the Samras have published the book *Holy Humor: Inspirational Wit and Cartoons.* The book contains the best jokes and anecdotes from past issues of the "Noiseletter" and one chapter called "The Easter Laugh and Holy Humor Month" that focuses on creative ways churches can celebrate the Easter season and April Fools' Day.

God's last laugh

"Secular society is taking Christmas away from us, but they can't take Easter away from us unless we let them," comments Samra. He suggests that churches celebrate Bright Sunday (the Sunday after Easter) by presenting playshops. Some Catholic and Protestant churches have a tradition of focusing on humor on Bright Sunday, says Samra.

Up until the 19th century, many churches had the custom of having parties and picnics on Easter Monday and Bright Sunday to continue the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, reports EP News Service. This custom included joke-telling and good-natured pranks by clergy and church members.

There is also an old church tradition of celebrating "the Easter laugh," says Samra. This refers to "God's last laugh on the Devil by raising Jesus from the dead," he explains.

Holy Humor has just been published and is already selling well in Christian bookstores, says Samra. The book is the fellowship's major project this year.

"We have to see Jesus as a joyful spirit [who] lifted the spirits of people," asserts Samra.

Members of the fellowship come from many different denominations. Samra does not want to reveal his denomination because he wants the fellowship to be fair to all Christian groups. "Nobody has ever claimed in 10 years that we haven't treated them fairly," he says. "Our focus is on the things that unify."

Readers interested in more information on the Fellowship of Merry Christians may write to: FMC, P.O. Box 895, Portage, MI, 49081-0895 or call 1-800-877-2757.

Montreal woman does clowning for God

Gordon Legge

CALGARY — Some days Montrealer Maxine Reeves is a normal-looking, dimunitive dark-haired woman with a twinkle in her eye and a sparkle in her smile.

On other days, she's Maximo, a figure with flaming, shaggy hair with a red, blue, green and yellow outfit that looks like a stained glass window on a sunny day, on top of which is a bespectacled white face and an impish grin revealing a huge heart.

Usually when you think about clowning, you think of laughter. But when you talk to Reeves, you think of love. Reeves is a representative of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board posted to Quebec who has taken up clowning with missionary fervor.

As a clown at Montreal Children's Hospital for the past three years, she finds it impossible to describe the joy she feels when a sick child smiles and laughs at her antics.

She receives an equal amount of joy teaching others to be clowns.

"You just have to experience it," she says. "That's why I want to encourage people to try it." Reeves was introduced to clowning as a way of reaching others while attending a women's missionary conference in Mexico. "This is something I want to learn about," she decided. Six months later, she attended a clown evangelism conference in Tennessee that was open to people of all denominations.

Mime, magic and make-up ministry

There she learned about miming, using props, pocket magic, balloon sculptures, clown characteristics, make-up and costumes, organizing a clown troupe, and clown ministry in hospitals, schools and nursing homes.

When she returned to Montreal, she offered to work as a clown volunteer at the Children's Hospital.

It quickly caught on and soon she found her clowning around did as much for the parents and hospital staff as it did for the children. It's against the hospital rules to evangelize, but her joyful antics spread a message of love. "There are so many things you can do and talk about without being 'religious.'"

Before long, other volunteers were asking Reeves to teach them the rudiments.

Two years ago, she held a clowning conference and 20 people attended. Since then, it's become a regular event. "I never realized in my wildest dreams that so many people wanted to clown."

Now there's a whole troupe of clowns who go into nursing homes, other Montreal hospitals, a home for battered women, schools to teach about drugs, and urban shopping centres, as well as participating in fund-raising activities. They also do birthday parties.

Couldn't help himself

Even her family has caught the clown contagion. When she first started out, her husband, who is a minister, told Reeves, "This is your ministry and I'll support it, but don't expect me to get involved."

Today, Maximo (which means "Godly love") clowns around with her husband as Phileo ("brotherly love"), along with their two daughters.

"He's a wonderful clown," she says proudly.

Thinkbit

An American visitor to Japan attending a Reformed church witnessed women serving the Lord's Supper. "When did you start this?" the visitor asked one of the leaders. "Ever since we started reading the Scripture," the man answered in all sincerity."

Told by Rev. John Klomps of The Bible League